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Contents

State aid to libraries Gratia A. Countryman	55-60	Book buying Bulletin No. 9	93
Instructional work of library commissions Alice S. Tyler	60-61	A. L. A. catalog Corrections	94
Reports from library commissions	62-67	A. L. A. meeting in Portland Announcement	95-96
Value and work of a state library organizer W. R. Eastman	67-72	A suggestion for census blanks	96
Library legislation of 1904 W. F. Yust	72-73	Contagion from library books	96
Editorial	74-75	Library schools Pratt institute Western Reserve university Wisconsin	97-98
Traveling libraries L. E. Stearns	76-81	Card system in medical practice	98
Publications of Iowa library commission	81-82	News from the field	98-100
Synopsis of laws authorizing library commissions Johnson Brigham	83-87	Publishers' department A. C. McClurg & Co., 101; C. M. Higgins & Co., 102; Baker & Taylor Co., 102; A. L. A. Publishing Board, 103; H. W. Wilson Co., 104.	
Canadian libraries and Mr Carnegie L. J. Burpee	87	Supply department Library Bureau, 54; Philadelphia Bookstore Co., 105; Henry Malkan, 106; Douglas H. Cooke, 107; Hammond Typewriter Co., 108.	
Library meetings Chicago District of Columbia Long Island Oregon Pennsylvania Wisconsin	88-93	Miscellaneous Northern Pacific, 104; Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul R. R., 107; Monon Route, 107; Big Four R. R., 107.	

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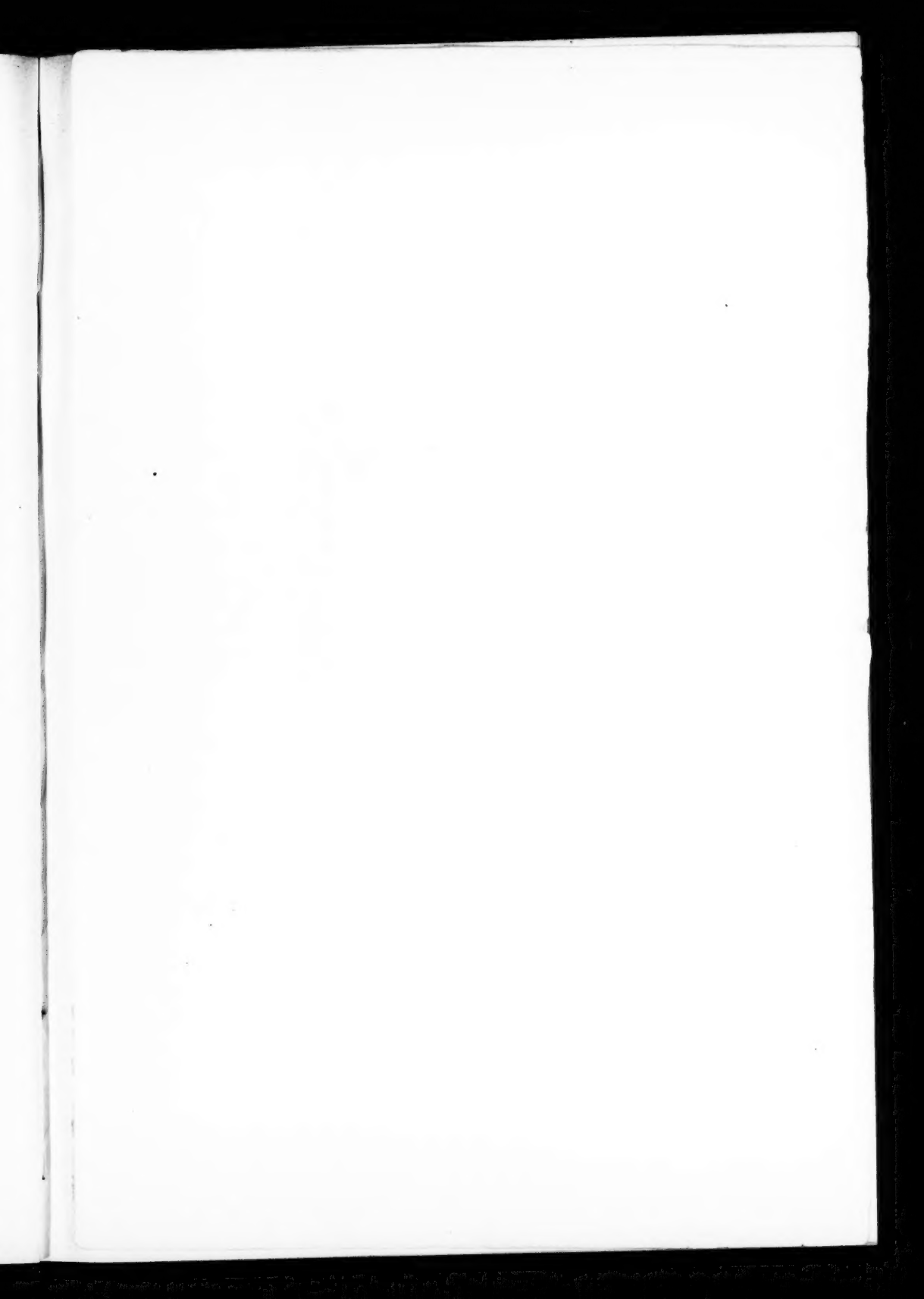
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Public Libraries

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.State Aid to Libraries*

Gratia A. Countryman, librarian Minneapolis public library, and secretary Minnesota library commission

In order that this topic may be somewhat limited, it will be understood as precluding all state aid to public school and district school libraries; to state law libraries and state historical libraries. It will be interpreted as meaning that form of state aid which has sought to promote the establishment of free public libraries by the appropriation of state funds. It will also include the effort to furnish, through state agency, the free use of books to the entire population of the state, and to supervise and organize this library effort through state organization, as the public school system is organized.

The aid of the state was first invoked when the movement for library extension felt the need of help which could not be supplied by any other means. The story of state aid and of library extension are therefore nearly identical, and state aid has been the good right arm without which little would have been accomplished toward library extension.

Library extension has been the battle cry of the library leaders for the last decade and a half. Previous to that time nearly every city or large town had its well-equipped library, more or less properly maintained by municipal taxation. The advantage which the city had over village or country life was as

marked in its library facilities as in every other. The continual and alarming drift of the country population into the cities was due to the barrenness of opportunity which up to that time library workers had done little to mitigate.

There have been many movements looking toward a reversal of this condition of barrenness, such as rural mail routes, rural telephones, better school privileges, and not least among them, the village and traveling libraries, which have been made possible through state aid. The city no longer has the monopoly of libraries, and perhaps no more significant thing has happened in the history of libraries than the rapidity with which the spirit of library extension has spread over the country, and the zeal with which the work has been prosecuted. For the most part, the initiatory work has been accomplished by the voluntary and unpaid services of enthusiastic library workers and by the well-directed efforts of women's clubs, and the wisdom of an occasional legislator.

To most of us state aid to libraries seems as natural a use of the functions of the state, as aid to schools or commercial enterprises. It seems as legitimate to have a library commission as a state board of education or a dairy and food commission. But in the earlier history of the work, and in some localities still, it was considered as an act of paternalism not to be countenanced. In the Minnesota legislature Ignatius Donnelly, a literary legislator, said in regard to the proposed law for state aid

*Read at St Louis A. L. A., 1904.

to libraries, that the state might as well furnish the people with boots as with books. No arguments, however, have prevailed against the conviction that if libraries were a good thing for cities, they were equally good for all towns, villages and country communities, and that since the smaller towns and country places could not maintain libraries themselves, the state should give aid in some systematic way that could be applied impartially to all of its people who needed such aid.

Under this conviction 22 states have enacted laws embodying state aid in some form. State aid is therefore a principle established by practice; the experimental stage is passed and it remains to us to review what it has accomplished for library extension, and the methods by which a great educational and constructive work has been begun.

State aid, having for its object the building up of free libraries, has taken two chief methods of accomplishing this result: that of a direct gift of money or books, and that of a loan of books by the traveling library method. Each state has placed the distribution of state aid under a state library commission or under its state library, so that the personal aid of expert librarians has been employed, which has become the most important application of state benefit.

Of the 22 states above mentioned, 7 use both forms of state aid, 11 use the traveling library only, and 3 give direct aid only, while 2, Colorado and Georgia, have library commissions which are at present advisory only. Of the 10 states which give direct aid, 9 are eastern states, and of the 18 which use the traveling library method, 11 are western states. Quite a distinct difference of method seems to be drawn between the East and the West, the East preferring to use the direct money aid. The difference also in the amount of personal visitation given by eastern and western commissions is very marked; the West making it a chief feature. This difference has come about partly by accident, in that one state is liable to pat-

tern its law after an adjacent state, but chiefly because of the difference of population. Eastern states like Massachusetts and Connecticut have a much larger town population than states like Wisconsin, Minnesota, or Nebraska; which have a large and scattered country population. In the West, moreover, where the towns and villages are comparatively new, other necessary improvements make it difficult to levy a library tax. The traveling library has exactly fitted the conditions of both town and country, whereas in the East many towns which are able to support a library needed only the initial impetus of state aid in some form, and a wise direction of their efforts. East and West have therefore developed along somewhat different lines, as will be manifest from the following résumé.

Massachusetts was the pioneer state in this direction, establishing a library commission in 1890 which was authorized to grant \$100 in books to any town upon the establishment of a free public library. These books were to be selected by the commissioners, who used the greatest care in selection and required the assurance of each town receiving the gift that they would take all reasonable means to make the books accessible. Information and advice on library economy have been freely given, but no actual personal assistance in the organization or classification. In 1890, when the law was enacted, there were 105 towns out of 352 without free libraries. At the end of five years this number was reduced from 105 to 24, and now, in 1904, every town in Massachusetts has a library. The work of the commission has been altogether through direct aid, but it has recently been considerably supplemented by the Women's educational association, who themselves have equipped traveling libraries, and have 43 in the field.

This pioneer step of Massachusetts quickened library interest everywhere. It suggested this new possibility of aid from the state treasury. Within a year the commissioners received requests for information from nearly every state in

the Union, and even from Great Britain and continental Europe.

New Hampshire followed the next year, in 1891, enacting a law nearly identical with the Massachusetts law, giving \$100 to each town founding a free library. The New Hampshire commission was not satisfied, however, with starting a library which had no assurance of further support, so in 1895 they were instrumental in passing a compulsory library law, which is unique, and which comes nearer to paternalism than any other piece of library legislation known to the writer. According to this law, every town must levy a certain assessment to maintain a library; the minimum amount instead of the maximum is prescribed; if the town has no library and does not wish to establish one immediately, then the fund accumulates. If a town wishes to omit an assessment, it must especially vote to do so; failure to vote results favorably to the library fund. So when the New Hampshire commission establishes a library by a gift of \$100, that library is assured a continuous support. The commission also publishes a bulletin of much merit for the instruction of librarians. In 1903 144 libraries had been established by state aid during the 12 years, leaving but 24 towns without a free library. The board of library commissioners was then abolished, and the work turned over to the trustees of the State library, who assumed the work, and are in effect a state library commission.

The next year, 1892, New York entered the list with quite an elaborate law, the results of which we will review a little later on.

In 1893 Connecticut established a commission to be annually appointed by the State board of education. This commission like the others was advisory and was authorized to give an amount in books equal to the amount spent by the town for the establishment of a library, not exceeding \$200. In 1895 an act was passed allowing an annual grant to any town equal to the amount expended by the town, not exceeding \$100. In 1903 an increased appropria-

tion was made for traveling libraries, and for a library visitor who should personally encourage and assist new libraries.

In 1894 Vermont's law was passed following the Massachusetts law, but in 1900 the commission was empowered to buy traveling libraries, and in 1902 to hire a secretary, the whole appropriation being \$900 annually.

Maine and Rhode Island had by this time passed laws giving direct aid under certain conditions, but Maine did not establish a commission until 1899. Since that time Maine has had an appropriation of \$2000 annually for traveling libraries, besides giving \$100 to new libraries and 10 per cent cash on the yearly appropriation. The commission, in 1904, conducted a training school of two weeks' duration and the state librarian, who is secretary of the commission, assists new libraries by visits and correspondence.

It will be noticed in all these states that in the beginning the method of state aid was confined to the direct gift of books or money, following Massachusetts as a model. The amendments authorizing traveling libraries were made quite recently, after that plan was a well-established movement.

To return to New York; in 1892 the regents of the State university established the Public libraries division of the State library, and in 1893 the first system of traveling libraries was organized. The regents were given power to charter libraries which fulfilled certain conditions, and to give them financial aid. These libraries are supervised and inspected yearly, which gives opportunity for much valuable personal counsel. Attention has been particularly given to library architecture, and the furnishing of library buildings. The state appropriations have varied from \$25,000 to \$62,000 at present; which could be expended for traveling libraries, for direct aid to town libraries, and for the necessary administration. The direct aid given is equal to the amount spent by the town, not to exceed \$200, and may be granted annually. The New York

Public libraries division has engaged in numberless activities, it does very valuable work for clubs, prints most helpful reports and lists of books, and conducts the finest training school in the country. Not only have the libraries of New York benefited by the activities carried on under state aid, but other states have watched and learned from New York experiments, and the publications and reports sent throughout the country have been most suggestive.

The story must now pass to the West. Wisconsin established a commission in 1895, Ohio in 1896, and Georgia in 1897. Then the labors which had been going on in a number of states for several years came to a head in 1899, when seven states passed laws establishing commissions, all carrying appropriations for traveling libraries except Colorado. The seven states were Maine, Indiana, Kansas, Colorado, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and Michigan. Then followed Iowa and New Jersey in 1900, Idaho, Washington, Nebraska, and Delaware in 1901, and Maryland in 1902; and so the movement has crossed and recrossed the continent.

Just as Massachusetts had been the model for the New England states, and New York a model for us all, Wisconsin became the pioneer and inspiration of the West. Massachusetts gave direct aid only to libraries, New York added the features of traveling libraries and library inspectors, while Wisconsin, dropping the feature of direct aid, made the plan of field workers and personal visitation and instruction the chief feature, with the traveling library as a necessary but subordinate feature. They began with a nominal appropriation of \$500 and now have \$18,000. From the beginning, most of the appropriation has been spent in salaries and administration, but the work has been largely missionary work, the creation of a desire for books, and the personal work was the first necessity. Right here it seems fitting to express our appreciation of that great-hearted man, Frank A. Hutchins, who has worn himself out in the service of Wisconsin libraries,

and who in spite of his unceasing efforts to reach every man, woman, and child in Wisconsin with free books, still had time to give sympathetic counsel to every other worker, and to impart to them his own earnest spirit. Wisconsin activities include general and special traveling libraries, a magazine clearing house, a state document department, publications of book lists and other helps. They also help without cost to organize and classify new libraries, to reorganize old ones, and to visit and interest towns having no libraries. They conduct a summer training class, which will probably be changed soon to a permanent school.

Ohio began work in 1896, in connection with the State library. Indeed the Library commission has charge of the State library, and appoints the state librarian. The State library of Ohio is a state library in fact as well as in name, and is open to all citizens of the state. It consists of two departments, the general library and the traveling library department, which in 1904 had an appropriation of \$8600. According to the 1903 report, Ohio sent out 923 traveling libraries, and reached 553 different communities, more than any other state in the Union. The traveling libraries of Ohio are not in fixed collections but are made up anew each time they are sent out. This flexible feature may account for their great popularity, and might well be copied. The Ohio law does not authorize field workers, or the free organization of town libraries; that work has been accomplished in other ways than by state aid.

In Minnesota, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Nebraska, and Idaho the work has proceeded along lines very similar to Wisconsin, with more limited facilities, but just as commendable work. Each has a traveling library system with salaried officers to administer the work. Each, except Kansas and Idaho, do as much organization and field work as their appropriations will allow. Each is seeking to establish free libraries and to better those already in existence. Min-

nesota, Indiana and Iowa have summer training schools.

While the working details vary somewhat, yet so nearly akin is the work of the western states, that more or less co-operative work has been found practicable, and more is contemplated for the future. And the time will certainly come when all the commissions will find it economical and practicable to do many things which are for the common good at one central office. But to return to the résumé of each state:

In Kansas, the commission has confined its efforts to traveling libraries, having 15,000 books in circulation, visiting 371 localities, which is as extensive a work, considering the time and money so far expended, as is done in any other state. They expect to send out a library organizer as soon as possible.

Indiana has at present an appropriation of \$7500 for commission work. Besides the usual features of traveling libraries, club libraries, free organization of libraries, and training school, Indiana is making a specialty of library institutes. For this purpose the state has been divided into 17 districts, which will be covered systematically; five institutes were held in 1903 and eight in 1904. A new department of library work with schools has just been formed, which will be watched with interest.

Minnesota, with an appropriation of \$6000, has now about 300 traveling libraries, containing over 10,000 books and having a circulation of nearly 60,000 annually. Since the establishment of the commission the number of free libraries has increased from 34 to 74 and the number of library buildings from 5 to 32. The plans for many of these buildings have been made in accordance with the advice of the commission, and most of the new libraries have been organized and cataloged free of cost.

State aid in Michigan is carried on by two organizations: the State library has charge of the traveling library system, and supplies books to communities having no libraries; the Board of library commissioners are concerned with building up town libraries, and to this

end have a system of registered free libraries to which 100 books are loaned for six months. Each library in the state, through a mandatory law, must make a report to its county commissioner of schools, who in turn must make report of every district, school and public library in his county to the Library commission. This method seems to affiliate schools and libraries very closely.

Iowa, established in 1900, makes a specialty of the personal assistance of town libraries in the way of visits and correspondence, and also through the publication of a quarterly bulletin. They also have spent much time and labor in aiding library boards to plan their new buildings. They have accomplished at least a beginning in the better distribution of state documents.

Nebraska, nearly the last to form a commission, is following along the same lines as its predecessors, with equally successful results.

In California the State library has recently formed a department of traveling libraries which are loaned throughout the state. They began in December, 1903, and now have 100 libraries in use.

Idaho has 6000 books in circulation at 100 stations, many of these being lumber and mining camps.

Washington, which has so new a field before it, is organized like Ohio, with a commission having the State library also in charge. A good beginning has been made with 57 traveling libraries in use. Their law authorizes direct financial aid to libraries, though no appropriation has yet been made for this purpose.

Pennsylvania has now an appropriation of \$6000 annually, and has about 70000 in use in 227 communities.

Maryland, unfortunately, has two organizations working separately in that small state. Each commission has \$1000 annually. The Public library commission is attempting to establish county library systems. The State library commission uses the traveling library plan, and in 1903 sent out 109 libraries; they are also anxious to prosecute the work of establishing town libraries more vigorously.

The Delaware commission has sent a library organizer over the state, has remodeled the library law, and has published a handbook on library economy, which has recently been revised and greatly enlarged.

New Jersey has an appropriation of \$2500 annually, \$1000 of which may be used directly to aid free libraries. They have published a handbook of instruction and a list of 1000 best books, and have sent out an organizer to aid small libraries. They have a good field for missionary effort, as only \$400 out of \$1000 has been used any one year to aid free libraries, and of the 62 traveling libraries which they possess but 12 are in use.

And so in brief we have reviewed very incompletely the work which various states have undertaken. It will not serve for any purpose except to show the direction of effort under state aid, for it is impossible in this paper to enter into much detail of the work of each state; a handbook of library commissions will shortly be a necessity. It is even more impossible to tabulate results, for the very best results have been intangible. That many towns have felt the awakening of library interest through the efforts of some enthusiastic library worker, that dead libraries have been put into working shape, that laws have been remodeled, that many country communities have rejoiced in the use of free books; that these and many other things have been brought about, are matters which do not yield readily to statistical tables. But these and many others are the fruits of library extension carried out through state aid, which we believe are only the first fruits. The field is unlimited, and the only wonder is that 14 years has accomplished so much.

A very interesting review of a Decade of library progress in America is given by William Warner Bishop in an article in the *Popular science monthly*, December, 1904. Mr Bishop takes an optimistic view of the situation.

Instructional Work of Library Commissions

Alice S. Tyler, secretary of Iowa library commission, Des Moines

From the very nature of the library extension work which State library commissions were created to accomplish, there must be more or less instruction given in library methods and details by the officers or employees of the commission.

Just what the nature and scope of this instruction shall be depends on the needs of the state, the amount of the commission appropriation and the conditions surrounding the work of the local library.

The assumption is that library commissions are dealing in a majority of cases with libraries that are unable, financially, to employ a regular trained librarian, and that in most cases the salary available is so small as to make it necessary to employ a librarian whose home is in the town and who can afford to accept the work for less compensation, but who must in some way be instructed as to her duties and the librarian's responsibilities.

To have a regular instructor employed by the commission, who shall go to the libraries of the state and give personal instruction to the librarian and assistants, and supervise the proper organization of the library, would seem to be the ideal arrangement, if it were not for the fact that with an entire state for the field, and with the many libraries rapidly springing up, it would be a slow process for one person to accomplish what should be done promptly in this work, where the need is urgent and immediate.

The most feasible and practical method, therefore, of giving instruction to the many librarians in a state, seems to be to bring them together and collectively give lectures and practice work in a summer school of from four to eight weeks, thus saving time and gaining much in the impetus and inspiration which comes from association with those whose work and aims are in common.

It may, therefore, be safely said that the most satisfactory instructional work

now done by library commissions is by summer schools, and several of the library commissions make this a regular part of their work; viz: the library commissions of Minnesota, Indiana, Wisconsin and Iowa.

It has been found very advantageous to associate such a school with some established educational institution whenever possible; hence in Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota, the summer schools of the commissions are associated with the state universities, and in Indiana, with the Winona assembly, thus gaining much in stability and dignity and in the use of the equipment, etc., already in existence. Other summer library schools have found the same arrangement desirable, though not commission summer schools.

As to the character of instruction given by the commissions, while it deals primarily with records and details connected with the orderly installment and conduct of a public collection of books, the ideals and aims of the library as a part of our educational system are steadily kept in view, and the spirit of service and uplift that is carried back from these schools to the many small libraries represented there, is no small part of the value of the schools. There is, however, a growing inclination to emphasize the book side of library work in these schools, and in at least one of them a course in literary criticism is to be a part of the regular instruction the coming summer.

The assumption that the librarian is already familiar with literature has been found to be a fallacy, even in the regular library schools, and probably the most frequent criticism that is made of trained librarians is their lack of knowledge of the inside of books, and their inability to properly estimate literary values. There is also the commercial knowledge of books concerning editions, publishers, series, bindings, etc., which has been wisely emphasized by another of the summer schools.

As those only are admitted to these schools who are already in library work or definitely appointed to library positions, it can readily be seen that they

exist only to supply the need in the state, and are not in the same class with regular library schools.

It would seem as if adjacent states might combine through their commissions and thus build up stronger schools, and it certainly does not seem necessary for each state commission to make the summer school a feature of its work, unless the need is so urgent as to demand it.

Where the work of library development and extension is being carried on in a state that is comparatively new and unformed in library matters, the instructional work becomes a very important part of the duty of the executive officers of the commission, and the fundamental records, such as accession, classification, shelf-list and loan system, must be explained and exemplified in such a way that these technical matters are thoroughly understood by the librarian. This need is not, of course, universal, for there are many libraries in each state that are able to employ skilled librarians, and these libraries stand as instructional centers of helpful influence in the commission's work.

At all times the office of the library commission is a center for such work either through correspondence or by the personal visit to it of librarians of the state; and if a traveling library is a feature of the commission's work, many of the records in the office afford a means of instruction and information to the library visitor.

The intimate relation of the state commission with the state library associations makes it possible for informal instruction and discussion to be a feature of the annual meetings of the association, by means of a "round table" or some such method.

Other methods of instruction, such as library institutes, may properly be considered a legitimate line of work for commissions, and the development of these will be watched with interest; but so far library commissions have not used this method of library instruction sufficiently for any conclusions to be drawn until it has passed the experimental stage.

Reports from State Library Commissions

The following list of questions was sent to all of the library commissions with a request to respond as fully as possible with a view to presenting the answers in this way. The report of conditions is given in the answers received from the states that responded.

Some of the answers it will be seen are quite full while others give the merest detail. But they furnish in one place some data about most of the commissions, and that is something.

Name of commission
 Date of organization
 Annual appropriation
 Number of persons employed
 Has the commission law been amended, and how far?
 Number of members, ex-officio and otherwise...
 How far does the commission supervise library work in the state?
 To what extent is instruction given by the commission?
 To what extent and how many traveling libraries are included in its circle?
 Does the commission maintain a clearing house for books and periodicals?
 Does the commission publish bulletins, lists, etc.?
 Give list of all publications, chronologically arranged with out-of-print material designated.
 Suggestions for improvement
 Signed

Colorado

The Board of library commissioners was organized in April, 1899. It has an annual appropriation of \$250, and has no employees. The commission consists of five members. No report of activity is given.

C. R. DUDLEY, Sec.

Georgia

The Georgia library commission was organized in 1897. It has no annual appropriation and has no employees. The commission consists of five members. The commission is not actively at work.

Miss Wallace, librarian of Carnegie library at Atlanta, is secretary and not only the state but the whole southern coast appeals to her for help in whatever library undertakings are begun.

This is not to the library commission but rather to Miss Wallace personally. The Atlanta library bears all the expenses for the correspondence and the time for Miss Wallace's work.

The traveling libraries in Georgia are cared for by private enterprise, as for instance, the Seaboard Air Line, Mr Carnegie, and others.

Idaho

The State traveling library commission was organized in 1901. It has an annual appropriation of \$3000, and employs a secretary. The commission consists of four members. It has under its control 100 traveling libraries, does not maintain a clearing house. It publishes lists of books.

MAY L. SCOTT, Sec.

Indiana

The Public library commission of Indiana was organized in 1899. The annual appropriation at present is \$7000. Six persons are employed to carry on its work. The commission law has been amended so far as regards appropriation, an increase having been received each legislative year. The commission consists of three members appointed by the governor. Instruction is given by the commission to individuals, and by means of institutes and summer schools. There are 133 traveling libraries in care of the commission, containing 4760 books. The commission does not maintain a clearing house for books and periodicals but has a department for donation and distribution.

The following publications have been issued by the commission: Finding lists of traveling libraries, 1899-1901, all o. p., Supplement to finding lists of traveling libraries, Circular letters concerning commission work to farmers and to newspapers, Library school and class announcements, 1902-05, the programs for 13 library institutes, 1903-04, and With the birds of Indiana, 1904.

MERICA HOAGLAND, Sec.

Iowa

The Iowa library commission was organized July 1, 1900. Its first appro-

priation was \$2500, which has been increased to \$6000 at the present time. There are three persons regularly employed in doing commission work with such additional help as is necessary from time to time.

The commission law has been amended to include traveling libraries in the work of the commission. There are seven members, three ex-officio and four appointed by the governor. The commission supervises the library work in the state by personal correspondence and personal visits of the secretary, supplying organizers, consulting in regard to all plans, etc.

Instruction is given by the commission through a summer library school to all library workers in the state who wish to avail themselves of it. The traveling library department contains 13,200v. The commission maintains a clearing house for books and periodicals and also publishes a quarterly bulletin, giving special attention to Iowa library conditions. ALICE S. TYLER, Sec.

Kansas

Kansas traveling library commission was organized in July, 1899, and has an annual appropriation of \$4000 and employs one person. The commission law has not been amended. The commission consists of five members. It does not attempt to give any instruction.

The commission has 300 libraries and 15,000 books. It makes no attempt at a clearing house nor does it publish any material. The commission looks forward to the employment of an organizer for libraries to help more systematically and effectually the small libraries of the state. The establishment of a library training school is also desired.

NELLIE G. ARMENTROUT, Sec.

Maine

The Library commission of Maine was organized in June, 1899. It has an annual appropriation of \$2000. The commission does not employ regular help for its work, but the work of the commission is carried on through the State library and its staff.

The commission supervises work to the extent of selecting the books for the traveling libraries and assists individual libraries when called upon for advice and help. Instruction is given at the State library through short terms of summer school, and arrangements have been made to hold institutes throughout the state. One hundred and twenty traveling libraries, 55v. each, are under the care of the commission. It does not maintain a clearing house and publishes only such lists and material as are needed for the traveling libraries.

There is a sentiment abroad towards discontinuing the commission as such, and placing its work officially under the State library. L. D. CARVER, Sec.

Maryland

The Maryland state library commission was organized in August, 1902, under Chapter 247 of the laws of that year. It had as the purposes assigned to it by the act: 1) To give advice and counsel to public library committees and public school libraries and persons desirous of establishing public libraries. 2) To prepare and distribute traveling libraries.

An annual appropriation of \$1000 a year was made by the statute, which has not been amended. The commission is composed of seven members, of whom three are ex-officio, namely: the superintendent of instruction, librarian of the State library, and librarian of the Enoch Pratt free library of Baltimore city, and four are appointed biennially by the governor. Of the governor's appointees two are men and two are women. The commission has had cordial coöperation from the Enoch Pratt free library, which institution has allowed the commission to use its main building as its headquarters, to have the traveling libraries sent out from that place, and has cataloged the books bought by the commission for the use of traveling libraries. In accomplishing its first purpose, the commission, again in coöperation with the Enoch Pratt free library, has been successful in the establishment, during 1904, of public libraries at Hurlock and

Centreville, and has frequently been called on for suggestions. In accomplishing its second object it has purchased books for traveling libraries and, with the assistance of a deposit of books from the State library, has prepared 46 such libraries which have been sent out about 175 times in the two years of the commission's active work. The commission has no publications but its annual report. It has just employed a field secretary to spend three months in the counties for the purpose of arousing interest in libraries, of giving advice and counsel to those wishing to establish public libraries and of creating a greater and more intelligent interest in the traveling libraries of the commission.

BERNARD C. STEINER, Sec.

Massachusetts

A Free public library commission was organized October, 1890, and has an annual appropriation of \$900 for current expenses. The commission has no employees and the law creating it has not been amended. Five members are appointed for a term of five years by the governor. The supervision over the library work is purely voluntary. Advice is freely given when called for and advice is sought and given on a great variety of questions. The state has no traveling libraries. An association of women has admirably cared for all the traveling libraries that are needed in Massachusetts.

The commission does not maintain a nominal clearing house although it has received and distributed a large number of books to libraries in the small towns. The only publications of the commission are the reports from year to year, of which 14 have been issued. The first are entirely out of print. A limited number exists of some of the others. Typewritten copies of specific lists of books have been furnished to public libraries.

This was the first library commission established. Its work has been mainly of an individual character. Massachusetts is a small, compact state. It has been our good fortune that the members

of the commission have been personally and rather extensively acquainted with the people of the state, and it has been our special good fortune that they have been willing to render their services without compensation, and we have thus been able to secure in several cases services which money could not command. The influence exerted by some members of the commission has been far greater than would be exercised by any paid organizer. Every town and city in the state has a good library, and most of them have branches and deliveries reaching the villages and outlying portions. There is no way of measuring by statistics, or even by setting forth in annual reports, anything like a full statement or synopsis of the work this commission has accomplished. Some members of the commission are daily brought in contact with people of all sections of the commonwealth. Suggestions freely given have always been kindly received and acted upon, with the result that our system of public libraries is, today, one in which we take some pride.

C. B. TILLINGHAUGH, Chairman.

Michigan

The State board of library commissioners was organized in 1900 and has an annual appropriation of \$800. There are five members. The commission does not supervise library work in the state. It does not maintain a clearing house.

The list of publications consists of the Annual reports 1900-03 inclusive, How to start a library, Women's clubs and free public libraries, and Legislative history of Michigan libraries. All in print.

M. C. SPENCER, Sec.

Minnesota

The State library commission was organized September, 1899. The annual appropriation began with \$5000 but was increased to \$6000 last year. Three persons are employed. The commission law has not been amended except to increase the appropriation. The commission consists of five members, three appointed by the governor and two ex-

officio members. The commission offers aid and advice and visits libraries for the purpose of instruction. The libraries are required by law to report to the commission and these statistics are published in the biennial reports to the legislature.

The commission encourages all efforts to establish free public libraries and gives advice and assistance to the library board on library building and all other topics as occasion arises. A six-weeks' course in library training is under the management of the library commission and is given at the University summer school. The commission also aids in organizing new libraries and reorganizing old ones, and for this work the librarian makes personal visits of from three days to three weeks to assist the local librarian.

There are 285 traveling libraries containing 12,000 books sent to country communities, villages and towns and also loaned to small traveling libraries. There are 14 traveling libraries for exclusive use of study clubs. The commission maintains a clearing house for periodicals for the public libraries of the state. It also loans single copies of magazines to individuals desiring material on special subjects.

The following publications have been issued by the commission: Biennial report 1901-05; Handbook of library organization, o. p.; Minnesota library laws, 1903; Public documents in the small public libraries, 1904. A bulletin, *Library notes and news*, will be issued bi-monthly beginning December, 1904.

CLARA F. BALDWIN, Sec.

Nebraska

The Nebraska library commission was organized November, 1901. The commission has \$6000 biennially for current expenses. Two persons are employed for the work. The commission law has not been amended. There are four ex-officio members and one appointed by the governor for five years.

The commission supervises library work in the state by giving specific help wherever asked to do so, making sug-

gestions to all by printed material, letters, etc. Librarians are helped individually when visiting the office of the commission at Lincoln, or as the secretary of the commission organizes libraries through the state. Eighty-five traveling libraries are circulated. During the biennial period closing Nov. 30, 1904, traveling libraries were sent to 130 places, 66 communities circulating 33,147v. The commission maintains a clearing house for books and periodicals in a small way.

The commission has published the following: The list of books for school libraries, Circular of information, First and second biennial reports, and How to start a library.

EDNA D. BULLOCK, Sec.

New Hampshire

The Library commission of New Hampshire was created in 1891. In 1903 it was merged into the trustees of the State library. The annual appropriation varies. The commission employs but one person. There are three members of the board. The commission does not supervise the library work in the state except by courtesy and it does not include traveling libraries in its work.

The State library maintains a clearing house for books and periodicals, and a quarterly bulletin of library matter is published. Library institutes are under consideration for the coming year.

ARTHUR H. CHASE, Lib'n.

New Jersey

The library commission was organized in 1900. The annual appropriation is \$3000, as follows: \$1000 for aiding libraries, \$500 for traveling libraries, and \$1500 for clerical assistants, traveling expenses, etc.

Two persons are employed. The commission law has not been materially changed. Five persons constitute the commission. It has no supervising powers over library work in the state. Instruction will be given by the commission whenever requested. Sixty-four traveling libraries are under the management of the commission. It does

not maintain a clearing house for books and periodicals.

The commission does not publish its own lists but distributes the Coöperative lists. The commission published a handbook in 1901. This, with the annual reports of 1900-03 inclusive, constitutes the publications.

HENRY C. BUCHANAN, Sec.

New York

The work usually done by a library commission is carried on through the Library department of the state. The annual appropriations have varied from \$25,000 the first year up to \$62,000. This includes the money given to libraries, traveling libraries, and a great variety of expense in addition to the salaries of those engaged in the work.

The state librarian is director of the Library department. The Library department has the power to charter public libraries so that the whole work of supervising and promoting their organization is in the hands of the department and each library is visited officially every year. Direct aid is given to libraries for buying approved books on condition of an equal sum from the library being used for the same purpose. This may be had every year. The annual amount is limited to \$200 to each library.

The New York state library school is under the care of the department and it also coöperates with the New York state library association in holding library institutes, emphasizing instruction in practical work. The most important work has been the organization and personal visitation of the libraries. Traveling libraries are loaned to rural districts, small libraries, clubs, and any center which applies for them.

A clearing house for magazines and documents has been organized, but the department has been crowded out of the State library for the lack of sufficient room. Selections of best books are published every year and frequently bulletins of books on various subjects are distributed freely to libraries of the state.

W. R. EASTMAN,
Inspector of libraries.

Ohio

The board of library commission was organized in May, 1896. The annual appropriation for the library commission is divided as follows: Traveling libraries \$8600, secretary of commission \$500, and expense of commission \$500. Four persons are employed in traveling library department.

The commission law has not been changed. An additional act has placed state documents at the disposal of the commission for exchange purposes. There are three members of the commission appointed by the governor. The commission does not supervise library work in the state. No instruction is given by the commission.

For the year 1904, 966 traveling libraries were issued aggregating 30,935v. sent to 647 different communities in the state. The commission does not maintain a clearing house. It aids interchange among libraries by publishing list of duplicate magazines offered for exchange by different libraries of the state. The publications of the commission thus far are as follows:

Publications of the state of Ohio, 1803-96. 1897.

Lafayette day, leaflet. 1898.

Newspapers and periodicals in the Ohio state library, Other libraries of the state, etc. 1902.

Sketches of Ohio libraries. 1902.

The new library. 1899; 2d ed., 1901.

Library laws of Ohio, Forms and suggestions for library organization. 1904.

Annual reports. 1896-1903.

Duplicate magazines offered for exchange. 1904.

The library commission was formed principally to care for the State library, and the traveling library work was put under the control of the latter. The appropriations made specifically for the support of the State library are not included in the above.

C. B. GALBREATH, Sec.

Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania free library commission was organized April 25, 1900,

has an annual appropriation of \$6000 and employs two persons. The commission law has not been amended. The commission consists of six members.

The commission reports on conditions but does not supervise library work in the state. It answers all questions addressed to it. There are 170 traveling libraries sent to 247 stations. The commission has published one bulletin.

THOS. L. MONTGOMERY, Sec.

Vermont

The Vermont free library commission was organized in 1894, has an annual appropriation of \$1400 and employs one secretary. The commission consists of five members appointed by the governor. The commission does not supervise library work in the state but gives help wherever asked and often suggests and aids small libraries. Instruction to some extent is given by means of round table gatherings of librarians.

The commission's traveling libraries include 23 large libraries, 10 small ones, 4 special, and 8 school libraries. It maintains a clearing house for periodicals.

It publishes reports, book lists and circulars of information. All the publications of the commission are included in the biennial reports.

MRS M. H. BUCKHAM, Sec.

Washington

The first commission was organized in 1901, but in 1903 this commission was combined with the State library commission. The appropriation for the work of the commission was vetoed by the governor, but it is hoped to obtain it this year. The commission has its home in the State library of Washington, and the employees of this library attend to the traveling library work as well as the work connected with their own institution. There are seven members on the State library commission, and there is an advisory board of five members.

Traveling libraries form an important part of the work. There are 57 traveling libraries of 40v. each.

A clearing house is one of the plans for the future, as are also publications of various kinds, and a permanent secretary.

Value and Work of a State Library Organizer

W. R. Eastman, state library inspector, Albany, N. Y.

When we set out to establish a public library a great many things must be considered. Neither books by themselves, nor a building standing empty, nor even a building furnished with good books, is sufficient to constitute a library. Even when provision for the future is made by a liberal endowment or the vote of an annual tax, the enterprise may still lack that living impulse which would make it complete. Life is of all things at once the most essential and the hardest to provide. If the best-equipped and most lavishly endowed library falls into the wrong hands it is a failure. The vital matters are intelligent organization and skillful handling of the material of which a library is made. There is money enough. It is only necessary to fix the attention of its owners on the project for a public library and secure their interest. There are materials enough for building. We have only to collect them, shape them and put them together with patient study and labor to produce the proper house. There are books enough, but they must be selected, bought, arranged, cataloged and marked with much technical skill, and then handled day by day by a librarian who understands and loves them and is proficient in using them to meet the practical needs of the people. The library in all its parts must be managed intelligently. Its rooms, books, librarians and finances must be kept, used and directed in good, square, business fashion. The management must be at once liberal and economical. The people must be both pleased and enlightened and every life enriched. And this means that behind the movement there must be a plan and a distinct purpose. Otherwise there will be great waste and loss.

When we ask how we are to multiply libraries and improve their quality, the plain answer is that intelligence on this subject is the vital need; that before we can accomplish much we must know how to do it and that the immediate

task before us is to acquire and to distribute library knowledge.

Fortunately for our purpose there has already been considerable experience both in founding and in the working of libraries, and so much of it has been published to the world that by giving careful attention to reports anyone may gain considerable knowledge of the subject. Yet we have not really the time to give to it and, from the state point of view, it will be a great saving of time and strength if we are not all obliged to go to the original sources of information, but can delegate this search to one capable person, saying to him, Find out for us how a library can be best managed and tell us the way. So the state organizer is the person who knows how. If by chance he does not, he is to learn as quickly as possible and to be constantly learning. And knowing how, it is his chief duty and pleasure to tell others and cheerfully to help every one that wants to know.

Let us consider three things about the state organizer: 1) his opportunities to know; 2) his qualifications, and 3) his duties.

I In the simple matter of learning libraries this one man, or woman, has great advantages over most of us, and chiefly because he makes a business of it. The rest of us pick up a little here and there, and, within a limited range, work out some things for ourselves. But this one person in the state can spend a good part of his time, and be paid for his time, in finding out library ways. The results of experience come rolling in at his feet because he has opened his office expressly to receive them, and also because he has made that office a clearing house from whence to distribute them. All libraries tell him what they have done and tell him gladly, not for the sake of boasting, but in order that they may thereby acquire a right to know from him what others have done and thus share in the benefit of the common and composite experience which is thus being built up and offered. The man who sits at the center of this movement must be dull indeed if

he can not learn libraries. But he need not always sit silent. If some things do not come to him he can ask; and his asking is not impertinent curiosity, it is official duty. He is expected to know for a public purpose. The common consent of the libraries and the state law alike require that he should know. The state enacts a system of reports embracing all the libraries and this organizer is made a public officer to collect them. The state is obliged to do this because it has recognized the public library as a beneficent institution, serving the people, and on that account free from taxation. It must protect its own tax roll from imposition and fraud. That is to say, the state must know that each institution calling itself a library and claiming redemption is in good faith doing public service. Therefore every library must report its doings year by year, and the state must have an agent to receive and handle these returns, from whom the governor and the legislature may obtain them. The organizer reaps the advantage.

While much knowledge comes to him through reports, he has a still better opportunity to become familiar with all sorts of library conditions through personal visits. In this way he is able to note failures as well as successes and also, in many cases, to ascertain the reasons of gain or loss which would never appear in a written report and might not in any case be told in plain words, but which may be discovered or inferred pretty certainly by his own observations on the spot. There is no other way to learn which, for effectiveness, can be compared with this going about among the libraries and coming into close touch with their librarians and trustees, with frequent opportunities of meeting leading citizens and others who are to be found in every community who have no responsibility except to complain. Among them all the true situation is easily discerned.

And yet again this one library organizer is in touch with those in like positions in other states and perhaps in other countries, so that wherever library ex-

perience is put on record the results will find their way to the person who represents a state. His inquiries are respected and answered anywhere in the world because of the importance of the clientage for which he stands, and when he travels abroad everything is shown him.

2 Setting out with such special opportunities to know the field, he will still need some special personal qualities to make him a successful distributor of library knowledge. He must have a great love of helping others, a love not only great enough for personal sacrifices, but also enough to make him forget his own importance, to make him lose sight of the fact that his judgment in a given case is in any way superior, and to enable him to sit down and talk with friends in a simple fashion, listening patiently, telling what others have done in similar cases, pointing out what the law seems to require, and helping the people in each place to work out their own problem for themselves. Such a man will be welcome everywhere if he knows his business. The people to whom he goes will tell him everything and he will understand. He will not reproach them if they are a little slow or indifferent, nor will he insist on too much. He will make the best of what he finds and they will find encouragement in his hopeful spirit. When they question him he will tell them the truth as he sees it and yet leave the impression that he would not, for the world, dictate to them on a single point. But somehow they will come to see things as he does, or nearly so. This man must be of a sympathetic spirit. He must be able to put himself in the place of other people, know what questions he would ask if he were finding out about libraries for the first time, and proceed to write out clear, direct and practical answers to be printed in circular form and used in his letters when the real questions come to hand. He will also know where to stop. We can easily confuse people by telling them too much. The flood of information often needs to be judiciously checked. A few leading points will

leave people free to think out some things for themselves or to come a second time with questions raised by actual difficulties. Kindness, sympathy, tact and helpfulness are the conditions of his success.

He must be clear-sighted, enthusiastic, earnest in pursuit of his main object; not a little minded man given to petty criticisms, but one with large conceptions of public interests; a strong man such as other men love to follow; a man with warm vitality to share with those who need it; a man who regards children as the hope of the country and loves and honors them accordingly.

Furthermore he must be of a kind that has infinite patience; that can wait till next month or next year, or even longer, without forgetting that at some future time if not now his help may be sought. A man who simply needs a place is not the man for this work. He must be man enough to make a place.

3 As to his duties. Imagine him equipped with a fair knowledge of libraries as they are and of how they came to be what they are, and of the various stages of their development, and he is now prepared to be an adviser. He announces that he will be pleased to be consulted by any parties interested. This is not a purely personal matter, as when a lawyer or a doctor puts out his sign. It is a state affair and therefore free to all. Letters will begin to come in. They will be brief and also difficult to answer because they tell so little. The people who write them have very little idea of what they want. Thus: What is the best way to catalog a library of 20000v.? Yours truly, —; or, Please explain the Decimal system and give me the symbols. Many will merely ask, How can we get help from the state? Many others will say, We have no public library. How can we get one?

It may require several letters back and forth to reach a clear statement of local conditions on which any effective advice can be based. But the man for the place will get at the main points after a little. He will write letters, send a few circulars of information, give some gen-

eral advice, invite his questioners to call; but, if libraries are to be founded, he soon reaches the point at which he must make a journey and see the place for himself. He can accomplish more on the ground in half a day than in two weeks of correspondence. Some one who was interested enough to consult him in the first place, takes him in charge and brings him to others for brief, pointed, business interviews. In the afternoon or evening he meets a few people of influence. He sees them singly and together. They ask questions, make suggestions, start difficulties possibly, but they get out of this visitor what they want to know. Their questions are like these: Who is to begin this movement? What does the law suggest? Is there a choice between two or three courses which are possible? And, if so, when and why is one course to be preferred rather than another? Shall we form an association or would it be better to secure a public vote and a tax? How shall we elect trustees? How many and for how long? How shall the library become incorporated? Where can we find suitable rules for circulation and trustees by-laws. What are the usual and what are the best ways of raising money? Can we get help? and how much? and on what conditions? Can we get help in choosing books? Who will send us lists? Where shall we buy and on what terms? How should the books be arranged? What kind of a catalog shall we need? And what will it cost? How many hours should the library be open? Is this or that a good or a bad book for the library? and why? How far should we try to meet the popular demand? Shall we have a library vacation in the summer? etc.

Some of these questions will come up at the beginning, and new questions in the operation of the library will come up later, but in regard to them all the organizer is a sort of walking encyclopedia to be consulted, and he may be better qualified to answer than the most experienced librarians in the state, simply because their experience has been

gained each in one place and in one library, while he is in touch with all the libraries and gathers up the universal store to place it at their disposal.

At such an interview as we have supposed the organizer does his best work, laying a firm and lasting foundation for the coming library in the minds of influential men and women to whom he can thus offer his best ideas of the meaning and character and ways of this new institution.

The library organizer may also bring much needed aid from his knowledge of library rooms and buildings. In a matter that seems as simple as making book shelves it will be worth a great deal to a new library to have correct ideas and right dimensions; and when it comes to the designing of a building and the grouping of department rooms with a view to the most economical administration, the lessons of experience are of the first consequence. Successes and failures in library building must be made common property to secure the greatest possible advance and the creation of better models.

The words of the visitor may not be confined to a private circle. If the time is ripe and the people inclined to listen, he may take the platform and convince an audience of intelligent people that the public library has a great and vital significance; that it is no longer as it once was, a luxury or a charity, but has become a necessity of our civilization. He will show them that even our boasted schools are sadly incomplete without books ready to the hand to supplement, illustrate and confirm their teaching, and also to supply knowledge to the multitudes who are not in schools and never will be again. He will also show them that the fairest and best way to support a library which is for everybody is for everybody to contribute his share through the public tax, precisely as we do with schools, and for the same reasons. This reasoning commands assent, but it wants public utterance and reiteration, and whenever the best people of the place can be reached in this way a very valuable and lasting service is rendered.

Perhaps a state organizer will be occupied all the year round in answering the calls made on him. But it will be better if he can also be working in a more systematic way than these chance calls would imply. He must study his territory and aim to cover it. He must plan to leave no section of the state unvisited. He will pick strategic points. Often where he is not asked he will go, visiting the city and inquiring, as the apostles were bidden to do, who in it are worthy. He will soon find out the men who sympathize with his errand. Thus he will start a fire which will spread and he may soon be called back again for more decided action. He will not forget a library after it is established, but visit it again and again, inquiring about its condition and watching over its development with cordial interest and good will. Librarians in small places and large often grow tired of their work. Their first enthusiasm dies and they weary of the dull, monotonous round day after day. They feel the lack of sympathy. There is no one that really understands their little perplexities. To such it is a red letter day when the visitor comes bringing an atmosphere of appreciation and help. He brings news from the others. The sense of fellowship gives strength. His familiar talk is always suggestive of something new. He asks and answers a few more questions. The clouds are blown away, the work is taken up with fresh energy and he carries a fresh atmosphere with him to the next place. It is one of the duties of the library organizer to carry good cheer.

From his office he looks over the field, receives reports, summarizes, studies and distributes them. Then he improves to the utmost his opportunity of personal acquaintance, responding eagerly to every summons, yet without waiting for that, going over the ground in a systematic way and working up all library possibilities that he may find. And all the time his circulars and correspondence will be searching out and informing every corner of his state. Such, in a general way, are the duties of a state library organizer.

It is hardly necessary to suggest that this man, or woman, will work more usefully as a recognized state officer than as the agent of any voluntary association. With equal ability in either case, he has a distinctly stronger position and will command a more cordial welcome if the state sends him. When it is understood that the state appreciates so highly the value of public libraries that it appoints an officer to look after them, go to them and promote their interests, the public library is more highly appreciated everywhere and it means more to everybody. This sort of recognition tells on the library itself and it reaches the community that has no library with an intimation that it is behind the age. And the state, which is after all only the expression of the convictions and the common purpose of the people of the state, can not only well afford to extend this recognition, but is also strangely indifferent to its own advantage if it fails to extend it. The cost of it is nothing as compared with the great gain of good free libraries that will in every community enlarge the common intelligence. There will in any case be libraries here and there, founded by private gifts or by some large cities; but the state may make them as plentiful and omnipresent as the schools and find great gain in promoting this widespread movement under careful, intelligent, responsible supervision.

State aid, wherever it has been given, has also proved a great help to the library organizer. It has been given in some states through the lending of books, in others by giving the first \$100 worth of books to a town; in still others by a yearly gift of books or money for books. Naturally such help will greatly strengthen the organizer's hands. It enables him to appear not as an inquisitor or critic, but as a benefactor. If he makes requirements or talks of standards he can speak, not as one who would require anything or presume to dictate on any point, but as holding out a bounty offered on certain easy conditions and those evidently of a sort most desirable

to the library itself. And, as human nature is, this attitude goes a great way to produce the desired result. The offer itself produces a desire to measure up to the standard; the organizer is welcomed to assist in the process, and the quality of all the libraries is advanced. The state does not pauperize the libraries by giving full support. It gives nothing without conditions and equal local contributions. It may keep a lien on all it gives, securing a reversion to the state whenever the conditions are not sustained. It may give but little compared with the total cost of the enterprise, but the little that the state may give will prove to be seed of a rich harvest if it does no more than to insure a cordial welcome to the man or woman who is working for more and better libraries. For the state itself it is an investment of the highest order.

It is difficult to see how a state organizer could work at all to advantage as a private individual or as the agent of a society. The public library itself, if it can be promoted only at private expense, must be classed as a private charity or an unpopular reform. This would be a serious mistake. The library has already suffered sufficiently from this misconception and is now entitled to stand before the people with that full recognition from the state which goes with the state's appointment of the library organizer.

There is an immense advantage in personal contact with the whole field. The man who has visited every library knows the local conditions; he knows the town, the people, the trustees, the librarian. Then he is prepared to help them. He can plan for them and plead their cause. He appreciates their work, they accept his counsel, and they are all stronger for this personal tie that holds them together. Under his leadership they can work to good purpose for the common good.

There are now 23 state commissions. At least six of these have each a library organizer, ready to answer the call to brief personal service in any part of the state represented.

Library Legislation of 1904

Compiled by W. F. Yust, New York state library, Albany

In 1904 legislative sessions were held in 16 states, 12 of which passed 37 library laws of general application and a number of local acts. Geographically they are divided: North Atlantic states, 6 laws in 4 states; Southern, 15 laws in 6 states; North Central, 8, all in Ohio; Western, 8, all in Iowa.

In New York the Unification bill is of first importance. It combines in one the University of the State of New York and the Department of public instruction, forming the Education department. This is controlled by a board of 11 (formerly 23) regents elected by the legislature, one each year for a term of 11 years (formerly chosen for life). The chief executive, the commissioner of education, is elected for six years, and has large independent powers. He has appointed three assistant commissioners, a director of libraries and a director of science. In the library division are centralized all the library and home education activities of the state, including the State library, common school, public and traveling libraries, traveling pictures, etc.

Public libraries—Considerable activity is manifest in the South. Alabama for the first time mentions library associations in a law which is only a brief addition to the code relating to corporations, stating that a library shall have three to nine trustees. Georgia has amended the law of 1901, which placed the management of public libraries in the hands of school authorities. This power is now vested in a board of trustees elected by the city council. This insures the attention of a board whose sole aim is to promote the growth and influence of the public library. In Ohio public libraries in cities and villages to have six trustees, not over three from same political party; not over three women.

Joint control of public libraries—In Iowa colleges and cities may jointly establish and maintain public libraries on such terms as may be mutually agreed.

upon, the library tax and qualifications of trustees being the same as in other cities, the city treasurer to pay library taxes to library treasurer.

Transfer—In Kentucky free library corporations may transfer libraries to cities or towns for free use. In Ohio municipalities may transfer suitable property to district public libraries.

School libraries—New York raised the annual appropriation for school libraries from \$55,000 to \$100,000. Regulations for distribution are to be made by the commissioner of education. The state grant and its equivalent can be spent for approved books only. South Carolina follows the plan of North Carolina. When \$10 has been raised by private subscription in any district, the county and the state shall each appropriate a like amount. Districts may exchange libraries. \$5,000 annually is appropriated and grants are limited to 12 schools a year in any one county.

Traveling libraries—New Jersey transfers the management of traveling libraries from the State library to the Public library commission. This is contrary to the prevailing tendency, when changes are made, for the State library to absorb the commission and assume its functions, as in New Hampshire, Ohio and Washington.

State libraries—In Kentucky the state librarian is to be elected by the general assembly every four years (formerly every two years), with salary increased from \$1000 to \$1200. Georgia raises the salary of the assistant librarian from \$800 to \$1200. Ohio gives \$5000 for additional assistants and permits books to be lent for two weeks instead of 10 days, repealing a clause forbidding the removal of a book from the city of Richmond, and substitutes the advanced idea of inter-library loans and traveling libraries.

Documents—Seven states dealt with distribution and exchange of public documents. Rhode Island gives the state library 25 copies of every state publication for distribution to libraries in the state. Iowa authorizes the secretary of state to exchange the code for docu-

ments of foreign countries for the State library. State documents are to be sent to colleges on application. Such documents as are not required for public use are referred to the state librarian and the curators of the State law library and of the Historical department, on whose recommendation the executive council may dispose of documents.

Law libraries—In Alabama the supreme court librarian's salary is raised. Ohio provides for printing and distributing the catalog of 1904 of the Supreme court library and requires counties to pay librarian's salary where an association maintains a free law library. In Massachusetts incorporate law libraries are to receive free the same public documents as county law libraries.

Historical societies—Iowa appropriates \$7500 (formerly \$1000) annually for permanent support of State historical society; also \$200,000 for completing State historical, memorial and art building. Maryland gives \$4000 to State historical society to prepare and publish state archives; Ohio \$7500 for republishing 12 annual volumes of State archaeological and historical society.

Tax—In Ohio township trustees may levy annually 1 instead of $\frac{1}{10}$ mills for public libraries. Iowa raises the maximum tax in cities and towns to 2 mills, formerly 1 mill in first class and 2 in second class cities. In addition it permits 20 per cent of the mill tax to be given to public libraries.

Capital stock—In New Jersey educational, library or literary corporations may issue capital stock, change name, etc.

Penalties—Iowa fixes a penalty of \$100 or 30 days' imprisonment for injury to library property. In Virginia one half the fine for damage to State library property is to go to the library, and it is made a misdemeanor not to return books within two weeks after notice.

The Brooklyn public library has issued a classified author and title list of books useful to teachers, with the names of the publishers. The selections are carefully made.

Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

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Single number	- - - - -	20 cents

PUBLIC LIBRARIES does not appear in August or September, and 10 numbers constitute a volume.

Growth in library organization—At the meeting of the League of library commissions in Chicago, Nov. 28, 1904, it was decided to ask PUBLIC LIBRARIES to prepare and present the present number of the magazine as a commission number. This has been done by considerable work on the part of all concerned. The question of state supervision of libraries is a very important one and has been too long neglected, or dealt with only in a perfunctory way in too many quarters.

It has been the aim here to show why some states are making better progress than others, and the cause is not far to seek. Where the work is intelligently organized, supported by state aid because the need of it is apparent and the results rational, and not because any person or organization enjoys the position afforded thereby; where there is efficient oversight and public reports of real things done, even though only in a small way, the conditions are satisfactory and normal. There is a considerable work of elimination to be done in some of the commissions and a closer and more real state supervision is needed in most of them.

But on the whole, the construction of a real system of libraries under government control is growing, and sometime there will be a rational gathering under one organization of the library interests of the country. A hint of what is to come and a tribute to the efficiency of the National library is found in the recent dedication of his new book by a prominent historian: "To Herbert Putnam and his associates who are fast transforming the Library of congress into a workshop for students."

The part of wisdom—The following from the report of J. C. Dana of Newark (N. J.) public library shows somewhat the basis of the splendid success this librarian always achieves in his work wherever his library is situated. After showing the growth of the library and its influence Mr Dana says:

The facts mentioned indicate a very great increase in the amount of work done by the library staff. They show that the staff have responded to the new and greater demands which the new building, changing methods and growth in use put upon them, and with an interest and enthusiasm which can not be praised too highly, accomplish each month more work than in the month before, and seemingly with as great ease. Simply on the economic side, our experience demonstrates the wisdom of the moderate advances made in salaries in these three years. Work is better done by a few efficient, experienced, zealous, well-paid persons than by a larger number of persons of indifferent skill and with salaries proportionate to their skill. Our staff is more efficient and does more work than three years ago. This is the sum of the story. To this let me add that to keep up this growth, to retain good material when we get it, we must pay still better salaries.

Library sites given—While other cities which are wont to slyly laugh at Philadelphia for being slow, are much agitated, not to say greatly disturbed and perplexed on the question of providing sites for the libraries offered them by Mr Carnegie, Philadelphia citizens are coming promptly to the front and presenting available sites on which to build the numerous branches which the Free library of Philadelphia is prepared to erect through the generosity of "St Andrew."

There is something extremely unpleasant in the spectacle of the squabbles which follow fast on the heels of these gifts, and it is to be hoped that Philadelphia's example in this matter may be followed by others in such way as to avoid local disturbances. These latter detract in every way from the value and pleasure of the gift.

Library work in the South—Nowhere in the country is the interest in library extension, as witnessed by library meetings, in greater activity than in the South. In Alabama, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas have recently been

held interesting and helpful meetings of those interested in library extension. The programs have presented practical problems and the contributions on the various subjects have been unusually good and pertinent to the surrounding conditions. A notable feature of all these meetings has been the interest displayed by participation in the proceedings of those eminent in other lines of work. The state and city officials, college professors, schoolteachers, members of clubs and newspaper people have not only attended the meetings but have lent the aid of their counsel and thought to the work of enlarging and strengthening the work of the libraries in the various communities where the meetings have been held.

Library work in the South is keeping pace with the extension of other interests in that section, and is making for itself and those in charge of it a valuable adjunct and assistant in the upward progress of the times.

A pamphlet on Oregon—Librarians will find much to interest themselves and their readers in the pamphlet entitled Lewis and Clark centennial exposition. It is an account of the Lewis and Clark expedition and a most interesting description of the country through which it passed. It is profusely illustrated and contains facsimiles of charts and letters of both Clark and Lewis. Much information, interesting and most attractive, is given about the proposed exposition. In view of the meeting of the A. L. A. in Portland next summer, what is said about hotels, transportation and sights worth seeing is worth knowing. The railroad fare from various points for the round trip is also given. The rate from Chicago is \$56.50. The pamphlet may be had from any Northern Pacific railroad office for 4 cents postage.

A bill to establish a library post—The following bill was introduced in the United States house of representatives, by Mr Lawrence of Massachusetts, on Dec. 12, 1904, referred to the committee on post office and post roads, and ordered to be

printed. It is known as House bill 16279.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, subject to such regulations as the Postmaster-General may from time to time determine, books and other printed matter belonging to and passing from and to any of the libraries enumerated below be, and are hereby, admitted to carriage by the mail at one cent per pound or fraction thereof, namely: Public libraries maintained wholly or in part by taxation by towns, cities, states, or other political units, or by the United States; school libraries supported by taxation, or having tax exemptions, belonging to educational institutions of all grades; society or social libraries having entire or partial tax exemption or other public privileges maintained by endowment or taxation, or from both sources, by religious, literary, professional, trade, industrial, or library associations.

Sec. 2 That this act shall be construed as in no wise conflicting with section six hundred and forty-one of the Postal laws and regulations, which reads as follows: "At free-delivery post offices packages too heavy or bulky for delivery by letter carriers will be held in the office and addressees notified by mail to call for them."

Sec. 3 That this act shall take effect from and after its passage.

This is what librarians have needed and asked for this long time. It would be particularly helpful to small libraries with limited funds. It would allow such a development of the inter-library loan system as would give the small library access to what it can have in no other way. It would allow large libraries to help the small ones with little or no expense. It would save traveling for scholars and students. It would allow country districts to avail themselves of town library privileges, and do numerous other helpful things for all libraries.

Librarians everywhere, library trustees, teachers and all interested, are urged to write to their own representatives in congress, and to the committee on post offices and post roads, and ask for favorable action on this bill. Do this not once, but until the request is granted. If those interested will take prompt and effective action in regard to this matter, it ought to bring desired results.

The Wisconsin library commission bulletin No. 1 is an exceedingly good one and we foresee for it a wide field of usefulness under its present plan.

Traveling Libraries*

Compiled by L. E. Stearns, Department of traveling libraries, Wisconsin free library commission, Madison, Wis.

Delaware—The State library commission owns 45 traveling libraries, 31 of which have been donated by clubs and individuals. These are loaned throughout the state to clubs, public schools, Sunday schools, granges, and associations, for three months at a time with the privilege of renewal. In 1903 an appropriation of \$700 a year was made by the general assembly for traveling library work. The commission has an office in the court house, from which the libraries are sent out.

Idaho—The traveling library system of this state is the result of the earnest and persistent efforts of the ladies of the Columbian club of Boise, who had made a thorough investigation of the workings of such a system in other states and realized the great need of a similar work in Idaho, where many of the small towns and mining camps are practically cut off from the outside world the greater portion of the year.

Public sentiment in favor of the cause was awakened, and the organization succeeded in securing sufficient funds to purchase and circulate 15 cases, which were sent to as many library stations in 1899. The eagerness manifested for these cases and the appreciation expressed by the patrons in the communities to which they were sent justified the Columbian club in asking the state legislature of 1901 for an appropriation sufficient for the creation of a commission to conduct a free traveling library as a state institution. The legislature cheerfully responded to the request, and made an appropriation of \$1500 per year for salary and expense of transportation, and \$1500 for the purchase of books.

In 1903 the former commission was abolished and a new state library commission was created by an act of the legislature. An appropriation of \$1500 per year was allowed for general expenses

and \$1000 per year for the purchase of books. At the present time, the commission circulates cases among 100 stations. During the six years of the existence of the traveling library system in Idaho, 5776v. have been purchased.

Iowa—In Iowa the general assembly of 1896 passed a law providing an appropriation of \$2000 annually for the establishment and maintenance of a traveling library system to be operated by the State library. In 1900 a law was enacted providing a library commission to actively extend library interests in the state, and in 1902 the general assembly combined these two interests, transferring the free traveling library to the Iowa library commission, and providing an increased annual appropriation for library extension in the state, both in the work of the traveling library and in the encouragement of the establishment of local, tax-supported libraries, the total appropriation being \$6000 per year, of which a varying amount of from \$1000 to \$2000 is used each year for the traveling library. The traveling library now consists of 13,200v. Of these, 5900v. are in regular libraries of fixed groups of 50v. each, and consist of miscellaneous collections for general reading (some of these being duplicated) and 7300 in the general loan collection, which consists of subject libraries and a collection of books for young people selected from the graded list issued by the Board of educational examiners. In 1904, 542 libraries were issued with a total circulation of 28,708 issues. These figures do not show the entire circulation as it is difficult for this to be completely shown because many of the general loan libraries are in use by clubs for special reference. The use of traveling library books has been extensively developed along the subject side. The study clubs in the State federation of women's clubs make very general use of these books because of the close cooperation of the library commission with the club program committee and the library committee of the federation.

These subject libraries do not remain in fixed groups, but are selected from

*The compiler regrets that information concerning the Connecticut, Indiana, and Kansas traveling libraries was not received up to the time of going to press.

the general loan collection, which is arranged by the Decimal classification. When requests for books on subjects of study are received, the books are selected from this general collection, the number sent varying according to the material available; on their return these books are distributed on the shelves to go out again in groups. During 1904, 198 subject libraries were furnished to clubs and individuals, which entailed more or less work in selecting the best material on the subject desired.

Gratifying results have been obtained by circulation of books for young people in the rural schools, 56 such libraries having been loaned during 1904. Books for the blind in New York point have been circulated during the past year, and the experiment has proven so successful as to justify the extension of this work as rapidly as the demand and funds permit. Some work has been done in connection with the Farmers' institutes and the Y. M. C. A. (through county Y. M. C. A. secretaries) which promises good results.

Maine—The law establishing traveling libraries in Maine was enacted in January, 1897. In September, 1899, the first library was sent out. Since that date they have been in continuous circulation. There are now 120 libraries of 50 books each, or 6000v. in use all over the state especially in the small towns. The granges, women's clubs, and book clubs help very materially in their circulation.

The appropriation for the past two years has been \$2000 per year. For the past three years the circulation of books has averaged 5000v. The movement has accomplished great good in the rural districts and has awakened much interest in the establishment of free public libraries in our smaller towns.

Maryland—The State library commission was organized in 1902. With the first year's appropriation of \$1000, 32 boxes containing 35 books each were purchased. The maximum time a library may be kept in one place is four months, and a charge of 50 cents is made toward covering the expense of transportation.

Before the close of the first year 50 applications were received. Assistance was found in the use of 11 libraries originally donated for use in Baltimore county, but which were loaned to the commission for general circulation. Seven libraries were received from the State library. Although the libraries have been sent out a total of 109 times during the past two years, the demand is still greater than the supply. Of the 23 counties of the state, 19 have received these libraries.

Michigan—The traveling library, which is under the direction of the state librarian, has for its object the introduction of good books into localities where there are no libraries, and where it is difficult to procure desirable literature. These libraries are made up in sets of 50v. From 14 to 15v. in each library are carefully selected fiction, the balance is history, travel, biography, ethics, religion, and science. The libraries are sent upon request of various organizations; taxpayers can unite in an application (for small villages or towns this form is desirable); Granges, Farmers' clubs, Women's clubs, Epworth leagues, in fact any reliable association organized for the purpose of study and improvement, either on general or particular lines, the "special libraries" being largely used by women's clubs. A yearly fee of \$5 pays the transportation both ways on four libraries; \$1.25 pays the transportation both ways on one library.

Minnesota—The traveling library was established by an act of legislature in 1899, a few libraries having been sent out by Women's clubs the previous year. The system began operation in 1900, when the first 60 libraries were sent out. The libraries have been added to from year to year as the appropriations would allow until they now contain about 12,000v distributed in 285 sets, 200 containing 50 books each, and 85 of 25 each, with a total circulation of 213,746 issues. The sum of \$13,313.80 has been expended for books during the past four years. Fourteen special libraries have been given by study clubs for club use.

A free traveling library is loaned for six months to any village, town, or community upon application of at least 10 resident taxpayers who agree to be responsible for the safe keeping and return of the library, and to observe the rules made for its management. Libraries are loaned to any public or subscription libraries, if the application is signed by the library trustees. If loaned to a subscription library, the trustees must agree to loan the books of the traveling library to anyone in the community free of charge. A fee of \$1 for a library of 50 books and of 50 cents for a library of 25 books is paid in advance for each library to cover the cost of transportation both ways.

Nebraska—The first traveling library was sent out in December, 1901. There are now 85 traveling libraries in use. These traveling libraries have gone to 130 places in 66 counties in the past two years. They have made 256 round trips, and 64 libraries are now out. During this time 33,147v. have been borrowed. The total number of volumes is about 3400, so that each volume has had an average circulation of 9.7 times. The average number of borrowers in a place is 51, so that the total number of borrowers enrolled in the state is in the neighborhood of 6500.

A traveling library contains 40v., one-fourth of which are fiction for adults, another fourth stories for children, and the balance are history, travel, useful arts, etc., equally divided between children and adults. Experience has proved these proportions. The fiction is most carefully selected. Each library contains some of the old, standard novels, and some of the later popular books. Several small public libraries whose income is exhausted in the expense of administration are permanent stations for traveling libraries. This arrangement gives such libraries fresh books every three months and so helps them to keep up interest. A permanent station is a place that has paid \$40 for one traveling library upon condition that we send a succession of libraries for five

years. Fourschool traveling libraries are in the hands of county superintendents. These books are loaned by the superintendents in groups of 11v. to districts, in the hope of interesting teachers and pupils in school libraries and in the expectation that the establishment and better selection of school libraries will result therefrom.

New Jersey—The New Jersey traveling libraries were created in 1898. Within the first year 41 libraries were in operation. Since then the number of applicants has steadily fallen off, until now there are but 13 out. There are 62 of the libraries. Two more are now being made up especially for the woman's department of the state prison. Between 300 and 400v. were contributed by members of the Federation and by various Women's clubs of the state. The libraries are sent on application of 10 taxpayers and the payment of an annual fee of \$5, which covers all expenses for as many libraries of 50v. as the town can use during the year, the state paying the cost of transportation both ways.

A year ago the care of the traveling libraries was transferred to the Public library commission, which has just engaged Sarah B. Askew of Cleveland public library as organizer. By next year at this time the libraries may be more popular, since the proposition to reduce the annual fee is now under consideration, though the amount now collected does not in many cases pay the cost of transportation for two libraries a year.

New York—The state of New York was the first to send out traveling libraries. The system was made possible by legislation in 1892 and the first traveling library went out on February 8, 1893. Libraries for general reading are in groups of 25, 50 and 100v. for grown people, and 25v. for children. They consist of popular readable books on various topics, carefully selected, with about 30 per cent fiction. Some of the groups contain only the older standard works and others include only recent books. Printed finding lists are pro-

vided. In order to keep them readily available, selection from the various groups is impracticable, each library being lent as a whole.

In addition to these libraries in fixed groups for general reading, there are 50,000v. for supplementary reading and study. Maps and charts are included but not text-books, dictionaries nor cyclopedias. It has been found most satisfactory to make up libraries from this collection to fit courses of study adopted, but on a few subjects 25 or 50 of the best books have been selected and printed finding lists are prepared. These subjects are: Social science, economics, money, education, child study, agriculture, home economics, American literature, French history and United States history.

On satisfactory guaranty traveling libraries may be sent to:

- 1 Any library or school under state supervision on application of its librarian, principal or trustees.

- 2 Any community without a public library, on application of five resident taxpayers.

Some real estate owner, acting as trustee, must become personally responsible for loss or injury beyond reasonable wear. The trustee appoints a suitable librarian.

- 3 Any registered study club or extension center, on application of the secretary and the guaranty of a real estate owner.

- 4 Any club, grange, church, summer school, business corporation or other recorded organization, on application of the responsible officer and the guaranty of a responsible real estate owner. Loans to this group are not permitted to interfere with the more regular applicants mentioned in the preceding groups.

The fee of \$2 for 25 books and \$1 for each additional 25 books is payable in advance. This entitles the borrower to suitable cases, finding lists if printed, necessary blanks and transportation on one shipment each way. Delivery is made to the nearest railway, boat or stage office but borrowers pay local cartage.

Libraries are lent for six months, but schools and registered study clubs whose courses of study last longer than six months are permitted to retain their libraries as late as July 1 of each year. In all other cases libraries must not be retained after the six months has expired, except by permission, as the books are often promised to other localities. Libraries lent to summer schools, clubs or hotels must be returned on October 1 if recalled. If permission is obtained for retention of books beyond the time limit the extra fee is \$1 for each two months.

The house library of 10v., lent for three months for a fee of \$1 covering transportation both ways, is a plan for extending through traveling libraries the privileges of the State library to the rural population living too far from the nearest public library to make its contents conveniently available.

These house libraries are to meet the demands or the needs of rural homes and are therefore made up to suit as nearly as practicable each case. A blank is provided so that applicants can give conveniently the facts that will help to select books that will be most useful. When definite books are asked for, they are sent so far as practicable. In most cases, if the readers and their tastes and interests are known, there may be selected from the 60,000v. on hand better books than are likely to be put on the list by those less familiar with the resources of the library. The blank therefore provides for giving name and post office address of borrower, age and sex of each person old enough to read in the family, or (if the books are to be available also to one or more neighbors) in the circle of users. Information regarding extent of a reader's education or special study is an important aid in choosing the right books. It is specially desirable that any marked taste for any subject or kind of books should be noted, and a list of a few of the books already read which were most liked would be helpful. Preferences for books in foreign languages are noted, whether readers of foreign birth who find it eas-

ier to read in their native tongue or for students who wish practice.

If a special subject is to be made prominent, a list of books available or already read is given and the limitation of the subject should be clearly defined, e. g., whether general English history or only some particular period. With a definite list of books or this information as a guide, the effort is to send books that will meet the wants of all in each house applying.

Any household in New York not having convenient free public library privileges is entitled to a house library. The application must be signed by some real estate owner who guarantees the return of the books in accordance with the rules and to make good any losses or injuries beyond reasonable wear.

One dollar must be sent in advance for each house library of 10 books. This pays for transportation both ways. Delivery is made to the nearest railway, boat or stage office; but the borrower must get the library there, as local cartage is not paid. If the books are kept more than three months, 25 cents for each month or fraction of a month must be added to this fee. This charge is necessary to prevent carelessness in retaining books after they have been read, perhaps merely as a decorative feature in the home. The greatest good to the greatest number demands that when one family has read the books they should be returned so that they may be passed on to another.

Ohio—The first libraries were sent out in 1896. Since that time, 5051 libraries have been issued containing 144,268v. The traveling libraries are not kept intact. The books are returned to the shelves in the order of their classification. Selections are made to meet the special demands of patronizing organizations. The assistance rendered to study clubs has been a distinctive feature of the traveling library work, though the libraries are also sent to granges, boards of education, small village libraries and to communities desirous of establishing public libraries.

Transportation both ways is paid by those receiving the libraries.

Vermont—The legislature of 1900 authorized the expenditure of \$500 a year for the purchase of traveling libraries, and \$100 for clerical services. The Federation of Women's clubs presented 11 libraries valued at about \$325. There are now 40 libraries in circulation, averaging 40v. each, six school libraries recently prepared for special use in schools and about 200 books in the reserve library from which groups of books may be drawn for special requirements. The only expense to stations is for expressage. The American Express Company makes some reduction for libraries.

Washington—This state has 57 book cases, each case fitted with some 40 well-selected books. These cases are sent out over the state to the more remote and smaller towns where there are no library advantages of any kind. Upon the organization of a committee of three responsible persons and the appointment of a librarian and the filing of a printed form containing a pledge to properly care for and circulate the books, any community may become a station on the traveling library circuit, and upon the payment of transportation charges be entitled to receive a case of the books. As soon as the books of a case have been read by the people the case may be returned and another received. The state of Washington, with its great area and its difficulties of travel in certain sections and its many small and more or less remote settlements, is a particularly fine field for the traveling library as a permanent institution. Owing to the newness of the towns of the state and the lack of local free libraries, the traveling library is an especially valuable means in encouraging the establishment of free public libraries.

Wisconsin—The commission maintains a system of traveling libraries. These are sent to farming communities and to villages too small to support public libraries; to larger villages and towns for the purpose of encouraging the establishment of local libraries; to villages

and towns already maintaining public libraries, but whose book funds are insufficient for the frequent purchases of books necessary to sustain public interest; to study clubs not having access to public libraries offering adequate service; and to public libraries with large numbers of German patrons, German libraries are sent. The libraries are circulated from the offices of the commission free of all charges except the cost of transportation. They are shipped by freight in stout pine cases and are accompanied by printed catalogs and supplies necessary for keeping records of circulation, with circulars of information, and with placards for advertising the library in the vicinity of the station. The station receiving the library provides the shelves and pays the charges of transportation. The study libraries are retained as long as the club pursues the subject they cover; the other series are kept six months, when exchange is made. The English libraries contain from 50 to 60 of the best popular books in fiction, history, travel, biography, science and literature for adults and children. The study libraries vary greatly in number of books, and are sometimes supplemented by magazines and pamphlets. They are accompanied with outlines and programs. The German libraries contain from 35 to 40 books. These libraries have, in the main, been subscribed to by the public libraries using them. A public library contributes \$35, the cost of one library, and in return the commission agrees to furnish a continuous exchange during the life of the books purchased, which is estimated to be six years at least, an exchange of 12 libraries. The advantages secured to the library for so small an expenditure are obvious.

The traveling library stations are visited from time to time that the commission may keep in touch with the communities it serves, and that direct and intimate knowledge may be gained of the individual conditions and needs of each station, all of which are requisite to the best service. Instruction is given in the management of the library and

assistance in advertising the books to extend their use; and in case a library has been sent as an inducement to establish a local library, help is given to bring about the desired result. Small reading circles are organized in some places to make use of little groups of books on one subject contained in some of the general series.

Publications of the Iowa Library Commission

[The publications of the Iowa library commission as herein set forth give a fairly comprehensive view of the publications that any commission might issue.]

It has seemed important to the Library commission that the libraries of the state shall be supplied with printed matter of various kinds giving information and suggestion as to methods and improvement in library work; also to set forth the aims and purposes of the modern library movement for the information of communities without library facilities.

Iowa commission quarterly—A 16-page circular of library information issued by the commission four times during the year. It is sent free to all public libraries and trustees of free public libraries in the state.

Leaflets—From time to time as the needs arise, leaflets are issued bearing on special subjects. The following leaflets have been issued:

No. 1 Shall a free public library be established?

No. 2 Iowa day, and a Few books about Iowa.

No. 3 Periodicals: their value and use.

No. 4 Birthdays, anniversaries and events.

No. 5 Free traveling library of Iowa.

No. 6 Books for the blind.

List of books recommended for a children's library—One of the most useful publications issued by the commission is this list compiled by Annie Carroll Moore, children's librarian, Pratt institute free library, Brooklyn, N. Y. The list contains more than 500 titles and the books

are grouped under subjects. It is prefaced by practical suggestions for the selection and purchase of children's books.

Traveling library lists—A list of books contained in the regular 50-volume libraries, Nos. 1 to 100, also a few juvenile libraries.

In connection with the work of the Traveling library in supplying books on subjects for special study, the following selected lists have also been printed:

Agriculture.

Brief list of art books.

Manual training, cookery and needlework in public schools.

Domestic science.

Shakespeare.

Check list of state publications—This is a list of the publications of the state of Iowa printed in simple tabulated form, so that it serves the librarian as a check list for the state publications in the library, and also furnishes the much-needed information as to what has been published by the state and what constitutes complete sets of the publications of the various departments of the state.

List of books by Iowa authors—A list prepared by a committee of the Iowa commission of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in their efforts to bring together a collection of these books for the Iowa state building at St. Louis. It was compiled by Mrs. Henry J. Howe, a member of that commission and also of the Iowa library commission.

Biennial report—The first report on library conditions in Iowa, which the law designates shall be issued every two years, gives a survey of Iowa library affairs up to July 1, 1903. This report includes the library extension work of the commission, the work of the Traveling library, Summer library school, periodical exchange, and also gives historical sketches and statistics of the free public libraries of the state with illustrations of about 50 library buildings.

Other publications—In response to frequent requests, a brief list of books for young people was issued during the first year of the commission's work, entitled

One hundred good books for girls and boys.

A small pamphlet has been issued, setting forth the work which the commission has undertaken, entitled, Iowa library commission; its purpose, methods and activities.

Library buildings, by Grant C. Miller of Chicago, was issued as a pamphlet, being a reprint from the *Quarterly* of his paper read before the Iowa library association at the annual meeting in 1902 at Grinnell.

Report blanks for statistics—daily, monthly and annual—have been issued for the public libraries of the state, and announcements of the Summer library school are issued each year.

Co-operative publications—Through co-operation with the library commissions of Wisconsin and Minnesota, arrangements were made by which Iowa libraries have been furnished with the Handbook of library organization, Suggestive list of books for a small library and supplement and Buying lists of recent books issued every two months.

Connecticut

[In the Puritan number of the *Connecticut magazine* recently issued is a very full account of the work of the library commission of that state, by C. M. Hewins of Hartford. The committee emphasizes the establishment of permanent libraries rather than the traveling library. It has sent out 12 traveling libraries and eight portfolios. In addition to this the Colonial dames furnishes school libraries on colonial history and portfolios of pictures. The Audubon society sends books and bird charts. C. H. Leeds has for years supported 20 additional traveling libraries to towns and schools applying for them.

The article is full of personal experiences and descriptions of various libraries interesting and helpfully suggestive. The work of a library visitor from the commission is strongly commended. The article is illustrated by 16 exterior and interior views of libraries in the state.—EDITOR.]

Synopsis of Laws Authorizing Library Commissions

Compiled by Johnson Brigham, state librarian,
Des Moines, Iowa

Colorado—How constituted—The governor appoints five persons, each for five years, to serve without pay; to be known as the Colorado traveling library commission; the commission to elect annually a president and secretary; the appointment of commissioners to be made from a list of names submitted by the executive board of the Colorado federation of women's clubs.

Purpose—To create and operate free traveling libraries; to counsel, advise, and assist free libraries and committees that purpose to establish them and all persons interested in founding libraries, as to administering same, selection of books, cataloging, and the details of library management; to send its members to aid in organizing new libraries or improving those already established.

Appropriation—\$1000.

Report—Biennially to the governor. Every library supported wholly or in part by public funds—including public libraries, school, college, and university libraries, and State and Supreme court libraries—to make annual report to the commission.

Connecticut—How constituted—The State board of education annually appoints five persons who constitute the Public library committee, which committee serves without pay; no person ineligible by reason of sex.

Purpose—To advise and assist public libraries and public school teachers in the selection, purchase, and cataloging of books, and as to the maintenance or administration of libraries; to loan books and pictures to public libraries, schools, associations, and individuals; and to expend for books for new libraries, in each case a sum not to exceed the amount expended by the town for the establishment of such library, and not to exceed \$200.

Appropriation—\$2000.

Report—Annually to the governor.

All libraries established under the provisions of the commission law to report annually to the commission.

Delaware—How constituted—Nine members appointed by the governor; term five years; women not barred from serving; chairman elected by commission; state librarian ex-officio secretary, without voice or vote; members serve without pay.

Purpose—General supervision of all library commissions and of all free public libraries, counsel, aid, etc.; supervision and control of all circulating libraries; certification to the state treasurer when any town library is entitled to state aid, etc.

Appropriation—Not to exceed \$700, exclusive of expenses of members in attending commission meetings, which with printing, postage and stationery are met by the state.

Report—To the legislature biennially in January.

Georgia—How constituted—Five members appointed by the governor; none eligible who are interested in any publication house, or in the sale of books; term three years; no salaries and no allowance for expenses for either members or secretary; chairman and secretary elected annually.

Purpose—To give advice and counsel to libraries, and communities as to establishing and administering libraries, selection of books, cataloging, etc. The commission may send its members to aid in organizing and improving libraries.

Appropriation—None.

Report—Biennially to the governor.

Idaho—How constituted—An ex-officio commission, composed of the attorney general, secretary of state, state superintendent of public instruction, and president of the State university, of which the attorney general is chairman and the state superintendent secretary.

Purpose—Shall manage traveling libraries, cooperate with public school and other free libraries, etc., receive donations of money, books, etc.

Appropriation—None. All claims presented by the chairman and secretary,

when approved by the board of examiners, are paid by warrant.

Report—Annually to the governor.

Indiana—How constituted—Three members appointed by the governor; term four years; without compensation; state librarian ex-officio secretary.

Purpose—Control and management of traveling libraries, purchase of books for same, preparation and issuance of book lists, with prices; furnishing of advice and information as to organization, maintenance or administration of libraries, collection of library records and statistics, provision of courses of library instruction, print lists, circulars of information.

Appropriation—\$7000 for books and equipments for traveling libraries.

Secretary—Employed by the committee, also such other assistants as shall be required.

Report—Made biennially to the general assembly, and annually to the governor.

Iowa—Membership—Seven members, four appointed by the governor, at least two of whom shall be women. Ex officio members are: state librarian, superintendent of public instruction, and president of State university.

Purpose—To carry forward the work of library extension, both in establishing new libraries and improving those already established. Means employed are: personal visits of members and secretary, correspondence and use of printed matter, summer library school, traveling library, periodical exchange.

Secretary—Employed by commission and not of their number, who shall have charge of all the activities of the commission. Such other assistance is employed as the funds permit.

Appropriation—Annual sum of \$6000 for all the work, including traveling library. Limited to \$3500 of this for salaries and traveling expenses of the commissioners and secretary.

Report—Issued biennially, showing library conditions in the state. Each year statistics are obtained from all free public libraries for publication in Iowa official register.

Supplies—Postage, printing and general supplies are furnished by the state outside of the appropriation.

Kansas—How constituted—The directors of the State library appoint three persons—each for three years—who, together with the state librarian and the president of the Kansas state social science federation of clubs, constitute the Kansas traveling library commission, of which the state librarian is ex-officio chairman.

Purpose—To manage the traveling library department of the State library.

Appropriation—\$1000 annually.

Maine—Membership—Five members. Four appointed by governor, term four years, serving without pay; one ex-officio member, namely, the state librarian, with \$300 salary in addition to salary as state librarian.

Purpose—To encourage the establishment of free public libraries, select books for traveling libraries and advise the state librarian in reference thereto.

Expenditures—All expenditures of money made with sanction of governor and council.

Report—Yearly to governor and council.

Maryland—a How constituted—The State library commission consists of seven members, four of whom are appointed by the governor, each to serve two years ("at least two of whom shall be women"); also the state librarian, the state superintendent of public instruction, and the librarian of the Enoch Pratt free library, all serving without pay; the commission annually elects from its own number a president and secretary.

Purpose—To give advice and counsel to librarians and to library committees as to the establishment and maintenance of libraries, the selection of books, cataloging, etc.; to send its members to aid in organizing new libraries or improving any already established; to organize and control traveling libraries, etc.

Appropriation—\$1000 annually.

Report—Annually to the governor, in December.

b How constituted—The Free library

commission consists of five members each of whom serves five years without pay; the chairman elected annually from the members of the commission; the secretary, not of its own number, to be chosen and serve at the will of the commission; compensation fixed by the commission.

Purpose—Apparently identical with that of the State library commission, as outlined above.

Appropriation—Annually \$1000.

Report—Biennially.

The last named commission's activities not to include 14 counties of the state which are named in the act.

Massachusetts—How constituted—Consists of five members, appointed by the governor, each chosen for five years; the governor to designate the chairman; the commissioners to serve without pay.

Purpose—To advise librarians and trustees of free public libraries relative to the selection or cataloging of books and any other matters pertaining to the maintenance or administration of a library, and to expend money for books for such libraries as comply with the provisions of the law, appropriating \$100 for the purchase of books for free public libraries.

Appropriation—\$500.

Report—To be made annually to the general court.

Michigan—Law provides for a state board of four library commissioners appointed by the governor, with the state librarian an ex-officio member, for a term of four years. They shall give advice and counsel in every way concerning free libraries in the state. The libraries organized under state law shall report to this board. It, in turn, reports on all to the governor.

Minnesota—The law creates a commission consisting of five members, two of whom are appointed by the governor for a term of six years, and the other three are ex-officio, the superintendent of public instruction, president of the State university, and secretary of the State historical society.

No member of the commission can

receive any salary, but is allowed traveling expenses.

They are authorized to buy books which may be borrowed by any town, village, or community in the state. These books are to be divided into groups, to be known as the Minnesota traveling libraries.

The commission may hire such assistants as are needed to carry on the administration of these libraries, and to give, without charge, such help, advice, or instruction as any town library may need.

The commission shall also promote and assist the formation of libraries where none exist.

They shall keep statistics of all public libraries in Minnesota, and a record of the work done by the commission and make biennial reports to the legislature.

An appropriation is made by each legislature, being \$6000 annually during the last two years.

Nebraska—Our library commission law is, in brief, as follows: The chancellor and librarian of the University of Nebraska, the state superintendent of public instruction, the state librarian and one member appointed by the governor to serve five years, constitute the membership of the commission. Their duties are to "encourage the establishment of libraries where none exist, and improve those already established." They may elect a secretary, not of their own number, who shall have charge of the administrative and financial affairs of the commission. They may purchase books to loan to individuals, clubs, schools and other approved organizations.

This is the gist of the law, and upon our interpretation of the meaning of the words "encourage" and "improve" depends the general trend of development. To us, the book shelf in the Nebraska home is a library, and that in the district school also—so that much of our effort goes in that direction. We don't mean to let the banner for the lowest per cent of illiteracy get away from Nebraska.

EDNA D. BULLOCK, Sec.

New Hampshire—How constituted—The board of trustees of the State library—consisting of three members, appointed by the governor—supersedes the Board of library commissioners, assuming all the powers and duties of said commissioners; these serving three years without pay; not more than two members of the board to be of one political party.

Purpose—To give advice as to the selection and cataloging of books for free public libraries, and in other matters pertaining to the maintenance and administration of libraries; to issue and distribute library bulletins at least twice a year, and to expend \$100 for books for the benefit of every town that qualifies by showing its intention to establish a library, and provision for the care, custody, and distribution of books.

Appropriation—\$300 annually for the clerical assistance and incidental and necessary expenses.

Report—Biennially to the legislature.

New Jersey—How constituted—Five members, named by the governor, with advice and consent of senate, if made during legislative session; term five years; no salary.

Purpose—To advise local librarians in regard to the selection and cataloging of books, the maintenance or administration of local libraries, and to donate to free public libraries having less than 5000 books, the sum of \$100 each on compliance with conditions imposed by the state.

Appropriation—\$1500.

Report—To the legislature annually in January.

Ohio—The library commission act of Ohio provides for a board of three library commissioners to be appointed by the governor, one every two years, to serve for a term of six years. They have the management of the State library; appoint the librarian, and, with his consent, the assistants of the library; upon request, give advice and otherwise assist free public libraries as far as practicable; have charge of the distribution of state documents; make all rules and regulations for the government of

the library and the use of its books and other property. Under the last provision, which is very general in its nature, a traveling library department has been organized and other commission work has been inaugurated.

Pennsylvania—How constituted—The governor appoints five persons, each for five years, who with the state librarian, constitute a free library commission, the commission to elect a chairman, the state librarian to serve as secretary.

Purpose—To give advice and counsel to free libraries, and to communities that that purpose to establish same, as to establishing and administering libraries, selecting and cataloging books, etc.; the commission is empowered to generally supervise and inspect free public libraries, and to require reports from such libraries; and to establish and maintain a system of traveling libraries.

Appropriation—\$1750 annually.

Tennessee—How constituted—The governor, attorney general and reporter, and the chief justice of the supreme court constitute a library commission.

Purpose—To select a state librarian and supervise the State library.

Vermont—How constituted—The governor appoints a board of five library commissioners, and designates its chairman; term of members, five years each; members to serve without pay.

Purpose—To advise librarians or trustees in the selection and cataloging of books and in matters of library administration and maintenance; also to expend on application, \$100 or less for books for any town having no free public library, the books to be selected by the commissioners and to be donated in aid of the establishment of such library.

Appropriation—\$800 for necessary expenses, including expenses for transportation of books, etc., not more than \$500 of which summay be used for the employment of a secretary whom the board shall select, and who may be of their own number.

Report—Biennially to the general assembly.

Washington—How constituted—The governor, secretary of state, and attorney general constitute a board of library commissioners.

Purpose—To supervise the State library and make rules for same; and to obtain, by purchase or otherwise, books, reports, maps, etc., for the State library.

Appropriation—\$4000.

Wisconsin—Membership—Two appointees of the governor for terms of five years each, and the following ex-officio members: State superintendent of schools, president of the University of Wisconsin, secretary of Wisconsin state historical society.

Powers of commission—Advisory work with all free libraries and communities which may propose to establish them, as to the best means of organizing and administering such libraries; selecting and cataloging books and other details of library management.

Traveling libraries—Establishment of a department of traveling libraries, and assistance in establishing and supervising county systems of traveling libraries.

Library instruction—Maintenance of a summer school of library science, and the holding of librarian's institutes in various parts of the state.

Clearing house—Establishment of a clearing house for the exchange of magazines, as well as public documents, with the printing of necessary catalog cards therefor.

Public documents—Maintenance of a legislative reference and document department to furnish assistance with reference to current questions of legislation or interest to state officers, members of the legislature and citizens engaged in a serious study of public questions, and in the furtherance of this purpose the establishment of a library containing material particularly useful in the prosecution of this work.

Reference work—The distribution of traveling reference libraries to study clubs, debating societies, university extension circles, public libraries, and to individuals interested in the investigation of social, political and educational

problems, or in the study of literature, science and art. Such reference libraries to be equipped with suitable outlines for study.

Canadian Libraries and Mr Carnegie

Lawrence J. Burpee, Ottawa, Canada

It is anything but a pleasant task to draw attention to an incident that reflects discredit upon one's own people, but the publication of the following correspondence, which has already appeared in local Canadian newspapers, may perhaps help to discourage similar acts on the part of other Canadian municipalities.

A year or two ago the town of St Catherines, Ont., applied to Mr Carnegie for the usual gift to cover the cost of an adequate building for the public library at that place. Mr Carnegie gave \$25,000, which would pay for a building amply sufficient to meet the library needs of St Catherines for many years to come.

Not content, however, the public library board wrote a few weeks ago to Mr Carnegie, asking for \$3000 more, to complete the furnishing of the building. Through his private secretary, Mr Carnegie sends the following reply:

Mr Carnegie considers that the amount he has already given (\$25,000) was more than enough to erect a creditable and adequate library building for St Catherines, and he does not see his way to add to the amount.

While this well-merited snub is perhaps punishment enough to the town of St Catherines, it does not remove the feeling of humiliation that must be shared by all intelligent Canadians, that a Canadian municipality should be so lost to all sense of civic honor and self-respect as to go hat in hand to a generous foreigner who had already made a munificent present to the town, begging for more.

It is incidents such as this that almost persuade one to agree with those who see in Mr Carnegie's well-meant generosity a menace to that spirit of sturdy self-reliance which has been throughout its entire history, on both sides of the Atlantic, the pride of the Anglo-Saxon race.

Library Meetings

Chicago—The third regular monthly meeting of the Chicago library club was held Thursday evening, December 8, at the Chicago public library, the president, Miss Ahern, in the chair. Anderson H. Hopkins, a former president, who left Chicago a year ago to take charge of the Louisville free public library, and who has recently taken charge of the Carnegie library at Pittsburg, Pa., having offered his resignation as a member of the club, was elected an honorary member. Mr Hopkins is the first to receive election to such membership.

The subject of the evening's discussion was the Library from the viewpoint of the trustee. Dr Frank S. Johnson, of the board of directors of the John Crerar library, briefly outlined the principles which have guided the body of which he is a member. The founder, Mr Crerar, wished the city to have a library which should fill a needed gap rather than duplicate the existing collections. Consequently an agreement was reached with the Newberry and the Public libraries by which each specialized on certain subjects, the John Crerar taking science and technology for its field. The trustees, in their desire to make the library a monument to Mr Crerar's memory, have borne in mind his wish that they remember the duty they owe the community. A trustee should study the wants and needs of the readers, selecting the best books and excluding the vicious, giving to the public what it needs, not what it wants. He should search the world for his material, remembering that the object of a library is to help the multitude in its upward struggle. The speaker divided the duties of a trustee into three classes: 1) Financial administration of the public resources; 2) Care and maintenance; 3) Selection of books with due regard to the scope of the library. The books should be made easily available to the public by means of scientific classification and complete indices. This called for competent, well-equipped members of a library staff.

Franklin H. Head, a trustee of the Newberry library, told of some of the problems arising in the management of an estate of two and one-half millions, over one-half of which was unproductive, consisting as it did of vacant lots subject to heavy taxes. Not one member of the board at the time of its organization had experience in the management of real estate. The latter defect has, however, been remedied, and the financial condition is rapidly improving. The policy of the Newberry has been to acquire large collections at reasonable figures, the Bonaparte collection, which was bought at \$20,000, being an example. Great care must be exercised in the selection of books. Publishers' circulars are misleading and must be discounted. Trustees are responsible for the education of the public taste and must try to furnish those books which will benefit the public. A trustee must expect hard work, continual criticism, and no glory.

Dr B. J. Cigrand, of the board of directors of the Chicago public library, spoke on the Library of tomorrow. He favored the word trustee rather than director—trustee implies servant while director often means dictator. He believed that the library of the future must go to the people, not the people to the library. The thing of main importance is to have a magnificent librarian and a splendid library staff. The Chicago public library is fortunate in having both. If a librarian is "dead," the library will be (dead) also. The employees should be better paid and should be assured of their position for life. At present too many people are leaving the library for other spheres of usefulness. Among things to be desired in the future is a complete card catalog of all the libraries of Cook county and a telephone reference service by which it may be possible for the public to obtain information without a journey to the library. Such information, however, might well be paid for. It may also be possible in the future to have a system by which material on a certain subject could be gathered for a reader before

his arrival in order to avoid delay while a search was being made. The speaker did not favor an increase in the number of branch libraries of the city. There is, however, a need for the purchase of large collections, especially of manuscripts, for research work.

The following resolution, offered by Mr Josephson, was adopted:

Whereas, it is expected that the legislature of the state of Illinois, at its coming session, will pass an act giving the city of Chicago a new charter, containing among its principal features provisions for a board of public libraries, museums and art galleries; and

Whereas, it is one of the objects of the Chicago library club to promote the interest of the libraries of Chicago as far as it can;

Be it resolved, that the chair appoint a committee to confer with representatives of other interests concerned and present to the Charter convention such suggestions and propositions as may seem desirable.

A committee was appointed, consisting of Mr Josephson, chairman, Mr Wickersham, Mr Merrill, Miss Warren and Mr Perry. At the request of the chairman the president and secretary of the club were added to the committee as members ex-officio.

At its January meeting the Chicago library club was entertained at the Chicago public library by a reading by John Vance Cheney of selections mainly from his own poems. The reading, which was heartily appreciated and applauded, was followed by music and dancing. The desire was generally expressed that in the future, social evenings should be held at more frequent intervals.

CHARLES H. BROWN, Sec.

District of Columbia—The thirty-first regular meeting of the District of Columbia library association was held in the lecture hall of the Washington public library on Wednesday evening, Dec. 21, 1904. About 65 members were in attendance. A gift of two volumes (21 and 22) of the *Library journal*, presented to the public library by the executive committee was announced. This being the regular meeting for the election of officers under the constitution, a blank ballot had been previously mailed to each member of the association with the

request to bring the ballots to the meeting already filled out. About 30 members who were unable to attend the meeting had placed their ballots in the hands of the secretary with written authority to cast the ballots for them. This plan not only added greatly to the interest manifested in the election but also greatly expedited the balloting and eliminated the usual tediousness of electing the officers one by one. The result of the election was as follows:

President, David Hutcheson; first vice-president, Dr Cyrus Adler; second vice-president, George F. Bowerman; secretary, Frederick W. Ashley, treasurer, William S. Burns jr, executive committee, Josephine A. Clark, Miss Gilkey, and Capt. Howard L. Prince.

Pres. Solberg prefaced the regular program by congratulating the association on the presence at the meeting of three presidents of the American library association, Dr James K. Hosmer, Dr Herbert Putman, and the present president, Dr Ernest C. Richardson. The first paper on the program was a most interesting account from Dr A. R. Spofford of his recent journey in Europe, entitled, *Some observations in Spanish and Italian libraries*. Dr Spofford sailed from New York for the Mediterranean on April 12, 1904, intending to establish more intimate relations between the principal book dealers of Spain and Italy and the Library of congress. The greater libraries in the two countries were also visited, in particular the principal book collections in Florence, Venice, Rome, Perugia, Bologna, Genoa, Madrid and Barcelona. It would require the printing of Dr Spofford's address in extenso to give any adequate idea of its great interest.

Dr Richardson next presented a paper on *Traveling students vs traveling books*, which was a consideration of some of the difficulties besetting the path of research due to the necessity either of the student's traveling long distances to consult books and manuscripts or of bringing the books to the student, "the problem of student Mahomet and the mountain of books."

Interesting statistics were given as to a list of 1600 periodical references which the speaker desired to verify. So far as shown by printed joint lists, 500 of these periodicals can not be found in this country, 252 are in Chicago only, 76 in Boston and Chicago only. The difficulties may be ameliorated by improving the joint catalogs and by building up book centers by cooperation.

The librarian of Congress in discussing the papers of Dr Spofford and Dr Richardson spoke of a joint catalog on cards, to be available for consultation under certain conditions at the Library of Congress, as among the possibilities of the future.

FRED. W. ASHLEY, Sec.

Long Island—The December meeting of the library club was held at the Y. W. C. A. Memorial hall. Four new members were voted in. Miss Hutchinson, chairman of the institute committee, reported on the visit to Brooklyn libraries which had been arranged in place of the usual fall institute to enable librarians of Long Island to inspect some of the libraries of Brooklyn. A committee met the visitors at the Pacific branch of the Brooklyn public library, and conducted them to the Montague branch, to the Long Island historical library, to Pratt institute, where lunch was served, after which the library was visited, and thence to the Children's museum, where the weary but still enthusiastic party dispersed. The committee feels satisfied that visiting day was well worth the effort it cost.

The main subject of the meeting was

Examinations in theory and in practice

upon which the club had the pleasure of listening to a talk by Lucy M. Salmon of Vassar college. Miss Salmon divided examinations into two classes, entrance examinations and those given on the completion of a course of study. The object of the first being selection of candidates, the thing to be determined being what can the candidate do? the object of the second being educative, the thing to be determined being, what has the student learned? The fundamental aim being, in either case, to

find out one's ability to make knowledge effective.

The object of a library entrance examination is twofold—first, to weed out the incompetent; second, to determine the best material for librarians. The examiner should have very clearly in mind the qualifications for success in librarianship, should determine which of those qualifications can be brought out in an examination, and should prepare clear, definite questions that should discover the existence or non-existence of such qualities in the persons examined, remembering that the important thing is not so much what a candidate knows as what he can do.

Examinations have a physical and moral aspect as well as an intellectual. The best preparation for an examination is physical rest, a free mind; and the examiner should see that the circumstances under which the examination is taken ensure the best physical conditions, sufficient light, perfect quiet. Miss Salmon deprecated the system of espionage that prevails so generally at examinations. The candidates should be put on their honor, she said, and as in the law, they should be considered innocent until they are proven guilty.

Miss Salmon's talk stimulated an animated discussion.

Miss Foote of the New York public library asked in which of the two classes of examinations examinations for promotion belonged. Promotion examinations had been objected to, she said, as useless, on the ground that the librarian-in-charge could tell best about the quality of her assistants from their work; but the examination is valuable, first because it does make a uniform test against which there can be no fair complaint; the personal equation can not enter in. Secondly, the examinations for promotion are an incentive to study on the part of the assistant. Miss Foote advocated questions that involved short answers, as making for condensation and clearness on the part of the assistant, and making the papers easier to correct.

Miss Hawley of the Brooklyn public

library said: In preparing questions, do not read over examination papers to get questions from them, but try to think what you want to get from people, not only in the examination, but in subsequent work. A very good test of an examination is to take it yourself after making it out.

Miss Plummer said that in a library examination we want to find out what a candidate is—what is his stage of maturity, that being not a matter of age merely, his vocabulary, his power of expression. Many traits of personal character can be discovered from an examination—orderliness of mind, neatness, clearness, sense of proportion, common sense, intellectual honesty (the candidate who tries to conceal his lack of information by abundance of words, or who wilfully misunderstands the question, stands convicted on that point). Specialized information is not called for in a library worker, hence there are many branches of knowledge, as the sciences, that can be slurred over; some understanding of their terminology being required, and some idea of the recent progress in science. The best general examination, added Miss Plummer, is one that can not be crammed for.

Miss Hume recommended the dictation of difficult English as a good test of accuracy. She held that the report of the librarian-in-charge was of the greatest value in determining promotions.

Miss Lord made the point that examinations for admission to a library would not fall under either of the heads Miss Salmon had given. They are not, she said, entrance examinations in the sense in which Miss Salmon had used the term, and they are not tests by those who are going to direct further study. Neither are they examinations at the end of a course, given by the directors of the course to find out how far the students have grasped the work of the course. They are, indeed, a sort of mixture, being given at what was practically the end of a course, at the end of the candidate's preparation for the work by a person who had had nothing whatever to do with the candidate before. This

complicates the question of type. Miss Lord also asked whether it was not possible to prevent the admission to examinations of candidates who would in no case be accepted on account of personality. She said that it seemed to her hardly fair to admit persons to the examinations and practically to tell them they had a chance, when it was already definitely settled that that person could not in any case be given the position. It saved trouble for the examiners to admit everyone, and then to bring down the mark of the undesirable candidate by including "personality" in the marking, but was it fair?

The question was asked Miss Salmon whether she advocated a time limit for examinations. She said that she did not, that the sense of hurry that a time limit induced was detrimental to the best results of an examination. Miss Hawley objected that speed was a very important quality in an assistant, and that an examination ought to show it. Miss Salmon suggested that a certain part of the examination might be made to show this quality without injury to the paper as a whole.

Miss Salmon said in conclusion that she was much interested in seeing in how many points library conditions differed from conditions in college, making the examinations in many ways a very different problem.

Oregon—At the invitation of the Library extension committee of the Portland library, a meeting of librarians and library workers in Oregon was held in Portland, on December 27, for the purpose of organizing a state association. The meeting was held in the Portland library and was attended by representatives of the public schools, of the libraries of Pacific and Oregon universities, and of other localities.

Dr T. L. Eliot, vice-president of the library board, served as chairman and delivered an address of welcome in which he explained the object and purpose of the meeting.

He said in part: This present call has been, so to speak, precipitated because

of the acceptance by the National association of the invitation of this library to hold its next session in Portland, July 3-8. We expect at that time the representatives of libraries of every part of the Union. It will be a large body of enthusiastic workers meeting to discuss principles and methods; they have been persuaded to come great distances, and to hold their discussion in a comparatively barren field, with the honorable motive of forwarding the general library movement of the Northwest; and with the hope of illustrating for us the immense importance of that movement as the ally of home and church and school in education, and the efficient helper of the civic orders, with all their responsibilities, in the work of social uplifting. It is thought that those who have begun to feel the value of public libraries, however few and scattered we are, or however small and new our undertakings, might encourage each other by this conference and by organizing for future meetings.

Following Dr Eliot's address there was general discussion of library conditions existing in the state and the benefits of organization. Miss Isom outlined the plans and scope of other state associations and Dr Wilson of the Portland academy spoke of extending library interests not only in the county seats but in the rural districts where new conditions are changing the grading of the county schools and books are so greatly needed.

A committee on organization was appointed and a constitution reported. The report of the committee was adopted and the organization of the Oregon library association was completed in the election of the following officers: President, W. L. Brewster, Portland; vice-presidents, Prof. J. R. Robertson, Forest Grove, and Mrs C. L. Kelliher, Salem; secretary, Mary Frances Isom, Portland; treasurer, W. G. Eliot, jr, Portland. These officers are to constitute the executive committee of the association for the coming year.

W. L. Brewster then presented a paper on How to start a public library.

He gave a clear and practical exposition of the methods to be employed in Oregon particularly; the necessity of enlisting public interest and sympathy among all classes of people; the guiding principles in book selection; and the importance of obtaining a skilled, enthusiastic librarian and an interested board of trustees who should be capable, efficient men of business.

The afternoon session was devoted to the question of library work with the public schools and began with an address by F. R. Robinson of Portland, county superintendent of schools, on the Relation of the library to the school.

Mr Robinson told of the work of the Portland library with the county schools and the keen appreciation of the books by pupils and teacher. He expressed himself as highly gratified at the strong bond between the library and the schools and thought that the work would expand steadily and would be received with ever-increasing interest. He was followed by Miss Hassler, Children's librarian, who spoke of the cordial spirit of coöperation with which the library has been met, and emphasized the value of mounted pictures and bulletins in supplementing school work.

Miss Rockwood, reference librarian, talked of reference work with high school students; instruction in the use of catalogs and indexes, and lectures to classes on the arrangement of books. There was informal and general discussion of the kind of books needed; reference books in schools; the preparation of a list of reference books for the use of schools in book selection; and county school libraries, in which great interest was shown and many suggestions made by teachers present.

This was followed by a brief summary by Miss Isom of the objects of the Oregon library association, the importance of preparing the way for the coming conference, and the value of a conference in promoting the library interest of a section; and the meeting was then adjourned for afternoon tea and an hour of pleasant social intercourse, to give the members of the association an

opportunity of becoming better acquainted. SUSAN R. CLENDENIN.

Pennsylvania—The Monongahela Valley library association held its annual meeting at the Carnegie library of Braddock on the evening of Jan. 2, 1905.

This association is composed of the librarians and assistants in the four Carnegie libraries at Homestead, Braddock, McKeesport, and Duquesne, Pa.

The meeting was preceded by a banquet provided by the superintendents of the four libraries named.

The following officers were elected for the year 1905: President, W. F. Stevens, Homestead; vice-president, Miss White, McKeesport; secretary-treasurer, Chas. E. Wright, Duquesne.

Wisconsin State Library Association

The fifteenth annual meeting of the Wisconsin state library association will be held in Beloit, Feb. 22-23, 1905. This meeting will be a gathering of librarians, library trustees, teachers, clubwomen and all interested in library progress.

The main purpose of the meeting will be to arouse greater popular interest in what may be called "library extension." Wisconsin libraries have grown remarkably in number and size in 10 years. How shall we get these books to the people? Traveling libraries, branches and stations in cities, circulating libraries to schools, special privilege cards to teachers, all the new business methods pursued by aggressive, up-to-date, enthusiastic libraries and librarians will be exploited.

The report of the Iowa library commission for 1903 contains very full and valuable historical and statistical information of library conditions in Iowa. It is particularly valuable to Iowa libraries in information on the law, sources of helpfulness, suggestions and recommendations concerning libraries and library work. It is interesting to outsiders by reason of the illustrations and history of the large number of libraries and library buildings.

Book Buying

Bulletin of the A. L. A. committee on book buying, January, 1905

No. 9

The delay in issuing this number is due to our attempt to make the Bulletins larger: This proved impracticable. Suggestions and criticisms are earnestly asked for.

This committee has no books for sale. Instances of low prices quoted are simply to show how money can be saved. It is not our object to save librarians time or trouble, but to show them how, by taking a little additional time and trouble, they may save money and increase the value of their collections.

Our attention has been called to the fact that in discouraging the purchase of many net books within the year limit we may have been doing an injustice to the publishers of valuable works who have expended much money upon them and look to immediate sales for reimbursement. In particular The Arthur H. Clark Co. believes that the sale to libraries of their "Philippine Islands" (55 vols.) "Early Western Travels" (31 vols.) and "Historic Highways of America" (16 vols.) has been injured by our bulletins. To hurt the sale of such books has not been our intention. The word "net" in these bulletins means "net under the rules of the American Publishers' Association," and does not apply to such works as the above.

These recent books were published more than a year ago and are now exempt from the A. P. A. rules regarding discount. Supplement this list by your own observation. Neither publisher nor bookseller will remind you of dates of expiration. Caveat emptor. P. W. stands for Pubs. Weekly. C. for copyright.

Brown. *Foe of compromise.* P. W. Dec. 12. C. Nov. 9. \$1.50 Macm.

Bright. *Story of the Atlantic cable.* P. W. Dec. 12. App. \$1. N. C.

Bolen. *Getting a living.* Macm. P. W. Dec. 12. C. Nov. 6. \$2.

Chambers. *Orchardland.* \$1.50. P. W. Dec. 12. C. Oct. 2. Harp.

Cuyler. *Model Christian.* Pres. Bd. P. W. Dec. 12. \$0.75. C. Oct. 19.

Dix. *Life of Champlain.* \$1. App. P. W. Dec. 12. C. Nov. 21.

Dobson. *Fanny Burney.* Macm. \$0.75. C. Nov. 10. P. W. Dec. 12.

Gordon. *Reminiscences of the civil war.* \$3. Scrib. P. W. Dec. 12. C. Oct. 16.

Greenough. *Evolution of elementary schools of Great Britain.* P. W. Dec. 12. \$1.20. App. C. Nov. 7. P. W. Dec. 19.

Address inquiries and suggestions to any member of the Committee. Arthur E. Bostwick, Chairman, N. Y. P. L., 226 West 42d St.; John Cotton Dana, Newark (N. J.) F. P. L.; Bernard C. Steiner, Enoch Pratt F. L., Baltimore, Md.

The Committee has copies of all back numbers of this Bulletin, which will be sent on request.

A. L. A. Catalog

Melvil Dewey, Director of libraries, New York state

It is a gratifying surprise to the makers of the A. L. A. catalog that the 20,000 copies printed in October are so nearly exhausted that a new printing will be necessary in January. While extensive revision is impracticable, positive errors so far as reported will be corrected. Everyone is therefore requested to examine the book critically and send to the editor, Melvil Dewey, State library, Albany, N. Y., early note of any mistakes found or of any suggestions, e. g., competent authorities advise substitution of Dembitz's work on Jewish ceremonials in place of Rosenau's Jewish ceremonial institutions and customs (class 296), which is said to contain many misleading statements; references to Public documents list should read "pt. 1, p. 367-72," as that list is in neither logical nor alphabetic position and many do not think to look in the table of contents to find it.

Errors thus far noted are:

- Pt. 1 p. 14 Cassell & Co., also 43 & 45 East 19th st., New York.
 26 Insert Saints in Christian art.
 26 Insert Story of the states.
 92 Class 337 Bastiat: note, destroy first line.
 130 Class 575 Semper. Change Appleton \$2 to Paul 5/-.
 130 Class 575 Wallace. Should be Natural and Tropical nature.
 139 Class 613 Technologisches, etc. Should read hrsg. von E. von Hoyer & Franz Kreuter. Ed. 5. 3 v. 1902-4. 25 cm. Stechert \$4 ea.
 141 Class 613 Subhead Food, Richards. Change Home science to Whitcomb.
 142 Class 614 Harrington. 2d note belongs to next title, N. Y. Charity organ. soc.
 152 Class 641 Richards. Change Home science 50c to Whitcomb \$1.
 211 Class 814 Emerson. Insert after 19½ cm. Centenary ed.
 220 Class 821 Tennyson. Change 1st sentence of 2d note to The new Globe edition. (Macmillan \$1.75) is the only complete lv. edition. The Cambridge omits all poems published since 1890 save Crossing the bar.

- Pt. 1 p. 260 Class 883 Homerus. Note under Butcher & Lang's prose trans. belongs to Perry's The boy's Odyssey.
 335 Class 933 Kent. Insert after 19½ cm. (Hist. ser. for bible students).
 Pt. 2 p. 124 Dill, Karl. Omit whole entry.
 142 Emerson. Complete works. Change Riverside to Centenary ed.
 215 Insert before v. 3 Kent, v. 1-2 Kent, C. F. History of the Hebrew people.
 232 Industrial arts, subhead Dictionaries. Technologisches, etc. Change 1887-91 to 1902-4.
 248 Karmarsch. Omit.
 250 Kent, C. F. Insert after 19½ cm. (Hist. ser. for bible students).
 256 Insert before Kritik, Kreuter, Franz, ed. Technologisches, wörterbuch, deutsch-english-französisch. 1902-4. R5. 603.
 309 Münchhausen. Change Muenchhausen to Münchhausen.
 318 Newbury. Change to Newberry and transpose ahead of Newbolt.
 365 Richards, Mrs F. H. (S.) Food materials. Change Home science to Whitcomb.
 Richards & Elliott. Chemistry of cooking. Change Home science to Whitcomb.
 369 Röhrig. Omit whole entry.
 426 Technologisches... Hrsg. von E. von Hoyer & Franz Kreuter. Ed. 5. 3v. 1902-4. 25cm. Stechert \$4 ea.
 462 Wallace, A. R. Natural selection and Tropical nature.

Lists for Sale

Any library not receiving a copy of our English fiction list may obtain one by sending 11 cents to cover cost of postage. It contains a list of the novels in the library up to the end of 1902, authors and titles arranged in one alphabet. Lists of "best novels" are appended.

If any of the pins given out at the A. L. A. conference prove to be imperfect, they can be returned and replaced by new ones.

F. M. CRUNDEN, Lib'n.
 St Louis public library.

The Buffalo public library has issued a Reading list on The near East.

American Library Association Portland, Oregon, July 2-7, 1905

Preliminary announcement of travel committee

The travel committee makes this preliminary announcement for the information of members* of the American library association. Those wishing to take the trip but not eligible to membership, will be registered with the party on payment of \$5.

A special train, consisting of Pullman sleepers, Pullman stateroom car, observation Pullman, dining car, and baggage car, will leave New York, probably Saturday, June 24. Those from Pittsburg, Albany, Buffalo, Chicago, and other points will join party en route, or at Chicago or St Paul. The train will run via the Canadian Pacific, allowing a full day at Banff, the great scenic point in the Canadian Rockies, and a day at Seattle.

One session of the conference will be held at San Francisco after the Portland meeting.

Return may be made direct from Portland (with a five and one-half days' trip through Yellowstone park if desired). A delightful post-conference trip will be arranged from Portland to Alaska, covering about 10 days. Or, the Alaska and Yellowstone trips may both be taken. The return for those going to San Francisco will be by central or southern routes, and the Yosemite may be visited if desired.

The Alaska trip is a thousand-mile cruise from Seattle among the islands of the North Pacific coast, where there are none of the discomforts of the usual sea voyage, and in almost continuous daylight. At Skaguay a train is taken over the new White Pass and Yukon Railway, to White Horse, one of the most interesting rides in North America.

The special train for the trip to Portland will carry somewhat more than 100 people, yet the number must necessarily be limited and no more names can be booked after limit is reached. Each

member is asked to interest the members of his family or intimate friends to join the excursion, and to make provisional reservation at once. The rates made are the lowest that ever have prevailed. The Lewis and Clark exposition at Portland, and the many local excursions will afford entertainment for those not interested in the sessions of the A. L. A. A printed booklet will be mailed later to all requesting it, giving full details as to route, cost, length of journey, etc.

An early decision is necessary to get places on the train and rooms at Portland. Return enclosed card at once, with information of your intention, to F. W. Faxon, chairman travel committee, 11 Chauncy Place, Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Approximate cost

	From N. Y.	From Chicago
a To Portland via Canadian Pacific, with stop at Banff and Seattle; home individually within 60 days via Northern Pacific, Great Northern, or Oregon Short Line by regular trains, including railroad ticket, full Pullman berth, stop-over, transfers, and all meals (stay in Portland excepted), about	\$167	\$125
If 25 persons return at same time, the round trip rate from N. Y. to N. Y. will be about.....		
Stateroom (for two) outward from N. Y., extra per person.....		
Drawing-room, if for three, one way, extra per person....		
Drawing-room, if two occupy it, one way, extra per person.....		
b To Portland via Canadian Pacific as in a, thence to San Francisco and home individually via central and southern routes, round trip.	187	145
Side trips:		
a Alaska, 11 days from Portland about.....		\$55
b Yellowstone, five and one-half days on Northern Pacific, about.....		50
c Yosemite, 10 days from San Francisco, about.....		80

The stay in Portland may be approximated as follows:

Hotel Portland, European plan, \$2 a day each, but must be two in a room, meals a la carte; say.....\$20

*Extract from the A. L. A. constitution.—Any person or institution engaged in library work may become a member or fellow by paying the annual dues, and others, after election by the executive board.

Outside accommodations may be had from \$2 a day upward for room and board.....\$10 to \$15

The stay in San Francisco at a good hotel will cost about \$4 a day for room and board.

Answer the following questions at once, to F. W. Faxon, chairman travel committee, 11 Chauncey place, Jamaica Plain, Mass. This binds you to nothing, but will show probable size and desires of party.

Do you expect to go to Portland with special party?

Will any of your family or friends accompany you?

Will you wish stateroom or drawing-room going or coming at the extra price named?

How will you return?

a Direct from Portland after conference.

b Direct after conference with stop-off at Yellowstone.

c Via California.

d Take Alaska trip and back direct from Portland.

e Take Alaska trip and stop off at Yellowstone returning.

f Take Alaska trip and return via California.

Do you wish room at Portland hotel?

Who will be your roommate?

Do you prefer to save expense and room in private house?

F. W. FAXON.

A Suggestion for Census Blanks

EDITOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

The following is the substance of a letter written recently to the head of the Census department and by giving it here it may serve to bring out some expressions from other librarians which would help on the very desirable end suggested.

The form presented by the United States census department for filling up calls only for libraries supported by local taxation.

In this city the answer to that question, while correct, would give a very poor idea of the means available for education through reading. In this city there are two public libraries available for the citizens; one the one from which I am writing, the Howard memorial library, which does

all the reference work, is an institution created and endowed by one individual, Miss Howard, who became Mrs Walter Parrott, and died on October 26 of this year.

Of course I know that the present interest is not in libraries as such, but libraries as one of the items of city expenditure, still it would look rather ridiculous if it were assumed from the return that this great city was only providing \$8500 from taxation and \$4000 from other sources for its reading matter.

Since the operations in this direction are so thorough I would suggest that it would be better to issue, six months before asking for returns, blank forms which would embody a well digested scheme for library statistics embracing details of use and finances.

We have, or had, a committee on this subject in the American library association. If it does not still exist I am quite certain that the present president of that body will be delighted to place you in possession of reports of the committee, and put you in communication with members who sympathize with me in considering the necessity of a generally accepted form for library statistics similar in kind, though not as bulky in character, to that created by the Interstate commerce commission, and now generally adopted by railroads. In the present want of system in library reports it is impossible to make any comparisons of value.

WILLIAM BEER, Lib'n.

Howard memorial library, New Orleans, Jan. 2, 1905.

Contagion from Library Books

As some discussion has been going on in certain places about contagion from library books, the following, from the librarians of Baltimore and Cleveland respectively, should have weight:

The library has been in existence now for about 19 years, and during that time has had in its employ about 175 clerks of all ages, and among these clerks there has not been a case of any contagious disease, which I think is a very good proof that there is little danger.

For the past 18 years there has not been a single case of contagious disease of any kind in any of the public departments of the main library or its branches. As there are now more than 75 persons employed in these departments, and as each book is handled by not less than three people between the time of its return and re-issue, it seems probable that if contagion were readily carried by the books the library employees would be affected.

This seems to be a perennial question and unlike most questions in the library field does not yield to overwhelming evidence against it.

Library Schools

Pratt institute

In the library school which Signor Biagi is to establish in Florence, this school has the privilege of being represented by a student and an instructor. Mary L. Davis, who resigned her position here in June, and Anna G. Hubbard, '98, are both in Florence, and will study under Signor Biagi; in return they will assist him in teaching American methods of cataloging and classification. Miss Davis is particularly well fitted to take up this work, as she was instructor in cataloging at the Pratt institute library school for several years, and in addition she has a very good knowledge of Italian which will be quite indispensable in carrying forward the new work. After an examination of the work of the Library school, Dr Biagi offered to admit its graduates on recommendation of the school without further examinations. They will receive instruction in Latin, paleography, and bibliology in return for services rendered in teaching the methods followed in this country. Doubtless other graduates, especially those who have taken the advanced course, will be glad to avail themselves later of this opportunity.

The school visited G. A. Plimpton's text-book library December 15, and found it most interesting. They were especially fortunate in having the benefit of Mr Plimpton's explanations and comments as well as in having the opportunity of making a close examination of the books.

There has been a change in the dates of some of the lectures given in the second term, and the list stands as follows:

Jan.

- 6 G. W. Iles*—Evaluation of books.
- 13 Alice B. Kroeger*—Important reference books of the year.
- 20 H. W. Kent*—Culture side of librarianship.
- 27 L. E. Stearns*—Some western phases of library work.

Feb.

- 2 Mrs S. C. Fairchild*—Tests for book selection.
- 10 C. M. Hewins—Some earlier writers for children.

- 17 Herbert Putnam*—The Library of congress.

- 24 J. M. Campbell*—Books for the foreign population.

Mar.

- 3 J. C. Dana—Subject unannounced.
- 10 Theresa Hitchler—Subject unannounced.
- 17 I. E. Lord—The college library.

The lectures starred are to be given in the assembly hall of the institute and attended by a number of the Brooklyn public library staff, being given under the joint auspices of that library and the school.

The annual reception which was given to the entering class by the Graduates' association was a very enjoyable affair. The school is fortunate in having a number of its graduates so near that they are able to make frequent visits, and this year there was a general representation at the reception of all the classes from 1891 to 1904, the largest number of any one class being nine, and the smallest, two.

Mary V. Bolton, '02, has been appointed head of the Far Rockaway branch of the Queensborough library.

Mary Williams, '98, has gone to Omaha to occupy the position of reference librarian during the absence of Miss Templeton, who is in this year's class.

H. H. B. Meyer, '02, has been appointed to a position in the Library of congress, and resigns his work at the Astor library to enter upon his new duties January 3.

Sarah B. Askew, '04, has been appointed organizer for the New Jersey library commission, and enters upon her work in January.

The director spoke before the Carnegie school for the Training of children's librarians early in December on Poetry for children, Anthologies of poetry for children, and on The reading aloud of poetry to children.

Miss Rathbone of the school faculty is giving a series of lectures on Reference work at Newark under the auspices of the Newark public library, with an attendance of some 20 librarians and library assistants of New Jersey.

MARY W. PLUMMER, Director.

Western Reserve university

The library school convened after the Christmas holidays on Wednesday morning, January 4. Mrs Julia Concannon, one of our students, returned at Christmas time to her library at Lead, S. D., as her leave of absence had expired.

On Thursday evening, January 5, Mr and Mrs Brett and Miss Eastman entertained the students and faculty of the library school, the staff of the Cleveland public library, and others at the Olney art gallery.

The University is about to issue its catalog for the year 1904-05. This will include the catalog and announcements of the library school, which will also be issued separately and will be sent upon application to anyone interested.

Wisconsin

The eleventh annual session of the Summer school for library training, conducted by the Wisconsin free library commission, will begin on Monday, May 1, and conclude a session of eight weeks on Friday, June 23.

There will be no charge for tuition to students who are employed in Wisconsin public libraries. The fee is \$20 for students employed in libraries outside of Wisconsin. Stationary and desk supplies will cost about \$5.

Circulars giving full particulars will be mailed shortly.

The Card System in Medical Practice

A very interesting pamphlet is that issued by Carl E. Black, M. D., Jacksonville, Ill., a surgeon of standing in his state, on the Card system in medical practice. Dr Black has had a busy life as surgeon in two leading hospitals in his city, as consulting surgeon for various railroads, and in his special practice he has found it necessary to keep a multitude of records for consultation and he has adopted the card system and adapted it to his needs. By various rulings a large amount of statistics are provided for and by use of a set of rubber stamps the various parts of the body liable to injury or disease are shown on

cards. All this is described at length and illustrated in Dr Black's pamphlet.

Dr Black in his pamphlet has some very interesting things to say about medical classifications, pointing out where both the Decimal and the Expansive classifications are inadequate for modern practice, but he uses the Decimal not because he agrees with its divisions but because it seems best suited to his purpose of any system at present.

Dr Black has quite a large medical library containing many valuable sets of medical journals, and his card indexes relating to his professional work and to his books and periodicals form quite an array.

Libraries with medical collections would find many helpful hints in Dr Black's pamphlet.

News from the Field**East**

Tufts college has received a gift of \$100,000 for a library building from Andrew Carnegie.

R. K. Shaw, librarian for the past year of Brockton, Mass., has been elected assistant librarian of Public library at Worcester, Mass.

F. C. Blaisdell, for many years in charge of the desk in Bates hall in Boston public library, has been promoted to chief of the issue department. Pierce Buckley has been appointed to fill the vacancy in Bates hall.

Central Atlantic

Andrew Carnegie presented the public libraries at Homestead and Braddock, Pa., each with \$35,000 as Christmas presents.

Employees of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh to the number of 100 forwarded to E. H. Anderson at Carthage, Mo., a handsome silver loving cup in token of their high regard for him.

The Public library of Plainfield, N. J., has opened a department for local history and relics and has made an appeal through the newspapers for contribu-

tions of everything in any way illustrating the history and development of the town.

The new Carnegie building for the Public library at Atlantic City was dedicated January 2 with appropriate ceremonies. J. C. Dana made the principal address. Mr Carnegie gave \$70,000 and the city appropriated \$30,000. The library has 10,000v.

William Ives, librarian of Buffalo public library, who was identified with library work for 52 years, resigned his position January 1. Regret was expressed at the resignation by Supt. Elmendorf and the entire staff and good wishes for his enjoyment of his freedom from routine were extended.

In the teachers' classroom of the New York public library there is on exhibition a very interesting series of picture bulletins illustrating New York city history. Each bulletin covers a single phase of the city's history, and arranged in chronological order they present, all together, a graphic account of its beginnings, growth and development, its connection with the Revolutionary and Civil wars and some of the men who have been its best citizens.

The new building of the New York public library on East 67th street, was opened with formal exercises on January 20. This is the twenty-eighth branch of the New York public library, but it is the first to be established directly by that library, the previous 27 having been acquired by consolidation from previously existing institutions, such as the New York free circulating library with 11 libraries, the Aguilar free library with 4, and the Cathedral free library with 5. The building is the sixth of those erected through the Carnegie fund.

The branch will have on its shelves to start with about 10,000v. It is expected to add about 10,000 a month to the circulation of the Public library, which already reaches nearly 4,000,000 a year.

The report of J. T. Jennings of the Carnegie library of Duquesne, Pa., gives a bright outlook for that library.

This institution differs from most Carnegie libraries in the fact that the building houses a club and a music hall with 600 theatre seats and a well-equipped stage.

The club membership fee ranges from 50 cents per quarter for children to \$2 per quarter for men, and entitles any resident to the following privileges: gymnasium, baths, swimming pool, bowling alleys, billiard and pool room, checker and chess room. The average number of members for 1904 was 591.

The library also maintains an orchestra, a dramatic club, an entertainment course, six educational classes and various other features.

Cost of building, \$310,000; annual income from endowment provided by Mr Carnegie, 12 000; opened to the public May 14, 1904; volumes, Dec. 31, 1904, 8101; issued for home use, seven and one-half months, 35,825; number of reader's cards, 2598; percentage of fiction circulated, 60; juvenile circulation, 22.904.

The following items are taken from the report of J. C. Dana, librarian of Newark, N. J.

The number of books lent for home use by the library last year was 465,714. The slight, though gratifying, increase for last year indicates that we have reached a point where it is difficult to add rapidly to our circulation with our present appliances. Delivery stations do not grow in favor. It is very difficult to keep them in satisfactory running order. If we had a full catalog of the library to date and could issue each year a full list in one alphabet of the year's additions, we could do more with delivery stations. To compile and print these catalogs would cost more than to equip and run a small branch. It is better to take books to the people than to try to sell them catalogs. Even under present conditions our book lendings will steadily, though slowly, increase.

During the past year 11,367 books were sent in 257 different collections to 194 different teachers in their respective schoolrooms, where they had an aggregate circulation of 66,834. This work was just beginning three years ago.

Last year there appeared in the newspapers of the city about 205 different articles bearing directly or indirectly upon the work of the library. Of these 130 were prepared by members of the staff. They made a total of about 90 columns.

During the year 60 different organizations held 554 different meetings in the building. These meetings varied in attendance from three to four to 200 or 300, with a total attendance of

14,688. Of these meetings there were printed and distributed in the library every week detailed announcements.

Central

Helen Price, Illinois '01, has been elected librarian of the public library of Merrill, Wis.

Maud Pugsley, acting librarian for the past three years at the Adams library, Wheaton, Ill., has resigned her position to become assistant librarian in the Art institute of Chicago.

Julia E. Elliott, for some time librarian of the Public library at Marinette, Wis., has resigned her position to enter on the work carried on by the H. W. Wilson Co. of Minneapolis.

W. F. Yust, who for the past several years has been connected with the New York department of libraries as an inspector for the state, has been chosen librarian of Louisville, Ky., to succeed A. H. Hopkins.

Gov. La Follette of Wisconsin announced in his annual message that one who wishes his name withheld offers \$35,000 for a state library school for Wisconsin, provided the legislature supplements the gift.

The Public library of Minneapolis kept open house January 1. The building was opened throughout, brilliantly lighted and decorated with palms and plants. The trustees, Miss Countryman with her staff were present to greet the public and show them the building and the improvements recently made.

Ellen Summers Wilson, librarian of the Carnegie library of Steubenville, Ohio, died in Albany Nov. 6, 1904. She was a graduate of the New York state library school, class of 1898, and acted as branch librarian in the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh before appointment at Steubenville. Miss Wilson was actively interested in the Ohio library association.

Mrs B. A. Finney of Ann Arbor has just completed cataloging the Public school library at Plymouth, Mich., about 1500v., and has gone to Hudson, in the same state, to assist in arranging and

cataloging the new Carnegie library at that place. The library starts off with about 2500v., 1000 of which are newly purchased books, the gift of C. B. Stowell, the president of the library board.

The Public library of Marion, Ind., has prepared an art loan exhibit to be held in the library during February, for the purpose of inaugurating its new museum movement. Several valuable and extensive gifts, as well as loans of an interesting character, are presented. Much public interest has been aroused. The museum and art rooms are quite large, while the recent gift from the Japanese government of show cases was so large that the library has ample facilities in that way.

Pacific Coast

Pauline Gunthorp, who was formerly in the library of the University of Cincinnati, has joined the staff of University of California.

There are 1200 blind person in California. The State library has started a circulating library for these consisting of reading matter and music. Four systems of type will be used. Some assistance in teaching those who can not read any of the embossed type will be given.

Canada

The new library building at Winnipeg is described by a correspondent as a very handsome building of Indiana limestone, well lighted and well arranged. Mr Carnegie gave \$75,000 towards it. It is centrally located, a few blocks from the city hall, and yet off the noisy streets. It is expected to complete it by next summer.

Foreign

The report of the Imperial library of Japan for 1903 shows that of the books called for in the year, 167,000, or 21.6 per cent, related to mathematics, 20 per cent to literature and language, 18 per cent to history and geography, and the remainder to theology, art, industries, war and other serious matters. Fiction is not represented in the list.

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WHY "PAGANS"?

THE term "pagan" literally means *villager, rustic* or *barbarian*, and as used by Christians means an idolatrous or godless man—a heathen: A heathen means a *heather-man*, bushman or savage! Now consider the absurdity of applying this term *pagan* to the old Greek Philosophers, *Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle*, three of the greatest minds in the history of religion, ethics, and philosophy. These men were not rustics or barbarians and not *godless*, but eminently "godly," and represented the highest urban culture. In their works will be found the most exalted conceptions of God, the Soul, and a life of virtue. In the words of Socrates, 500 years before the New Testament was written, will be found a clearer statement of the doctrine of the immortal soul and its future states of probation, reward, and punishment than can be found in any part of the Bible. And in Plato's Dialogues will be found a perfect statement of the Golden Rule, 400 B. C., and also a full statement of the modern utilitarian theory of ethics in terms identical with that given by our greatest modern evolutionist, Herbert Spencer. To get a true idea of "pagan" teachings and correct popular misconceptions, read Vol. 1 of *Evolution of Ethics* by The Brooklyn Ethical Association, entitled *The Ethics of the Greek Philosophers*, 333 pages, 21 illustrations, including many portraits of the philosophers and a Life of Socrates.

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BOOKS

ANNOTATED LISTS

Literature of American history, ed. by J. N. LARNED. Cloth, \$6.00; postage, 30c.

Supplement for 1901, ed. by P. P. WELLS. \$1.00; postage, 10c.

For continuation see below under Catalog Cards.

Guide to reference books, by ALICE B. KROEGER. \$1.25; postage, 10c.

Bibliography of fine arts, ed. by GEORGE ILES. 90c.; postage, 10c.

Books for girls and women, ed. by GEORGE ILES. 90c.; postage, 10c.

Reading for the young, supplement by M. E. and A. L. SARGENT. 50c.; postage, 10c.

List of French fiction, by MME. CORNU and WILLIAM BEER. 5c.

Books for boys and girls, by CAROLINE M. HEWINS. New edition, enlarged. Price 15 cents; \$5.00 per 100.

A. L. A. index to general literature. New edition. \$10.00; postage, 52c.

A. L. A. index to portraits. *In preparation.*

Subject headings for use in dictionary catalogs. \$2.00; postage, 12c.

Library tracts on subjects pertaining to the establishment and maintenance of public libraries.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Why do we need a public library? | } \$1.00 per 100
if ordered in lots of 50 or more |
| 2. How to start a library, by G. E. WIRE. | |
| 3. Traveling libraries, by F. A. HUTCHINS. | |
| 4. Library rooms and buildings, by C. C. SOULE. | |
| 5. Notes from the art section of a library, by CHARLES AMMI CUTTER. 5c. each, \$2.00 per 100. | |

CATALOG CARDS

1. For the following sets and books of composite authorship, 75c. per 100 cards.

Johns Hopkins university studies, vols. 1-15. \$2.44.

U. S. geological survey. Monographs, vols. 1-28. 66c.

——— Bulletins, 1883-1897. \$2.78.

U. S. geological and geographical survey of the territories. ———

Miscellaneous publications 1-12. 23c.

American academy of political and social sciences. Annals, 1890-1901. \$5.88.

Bibliographica, 3 vols. \$1.31.

British parliamentary papers, 1896-99. \$13.39. For 1900, \$1.86. *To be continued.*

Warner library of the world's best literature. \$6.

Mass. public documents 1900-1902. \$1.60.

University of Chicago decennial publications. Series 1. \$1.40.

Old South leaflets, v. 1-6. \$2.45.

Smithsonian institution. Annual reports, 1886-date.

2. For 250 current periodical publications. Subscription (a) for complete series, \$2.50 per 100 titles; (b) for cards for selected periodicals, \$4.00 per 100 titles. Subscriptions may begin at any time, but back cards can not be supplied.
3. For 21 bibliographical serials. Price as per series 2.
4. For current books on English and American history. These titles are also printed in pamphlet form. The American history titles form the continuation of Larned's Literature of American history. Price, \$2.00 per year; pamphlet, \$1.00.

Going to Pacific Coast?

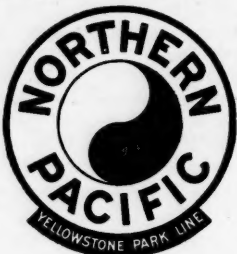
If Not Why Not.

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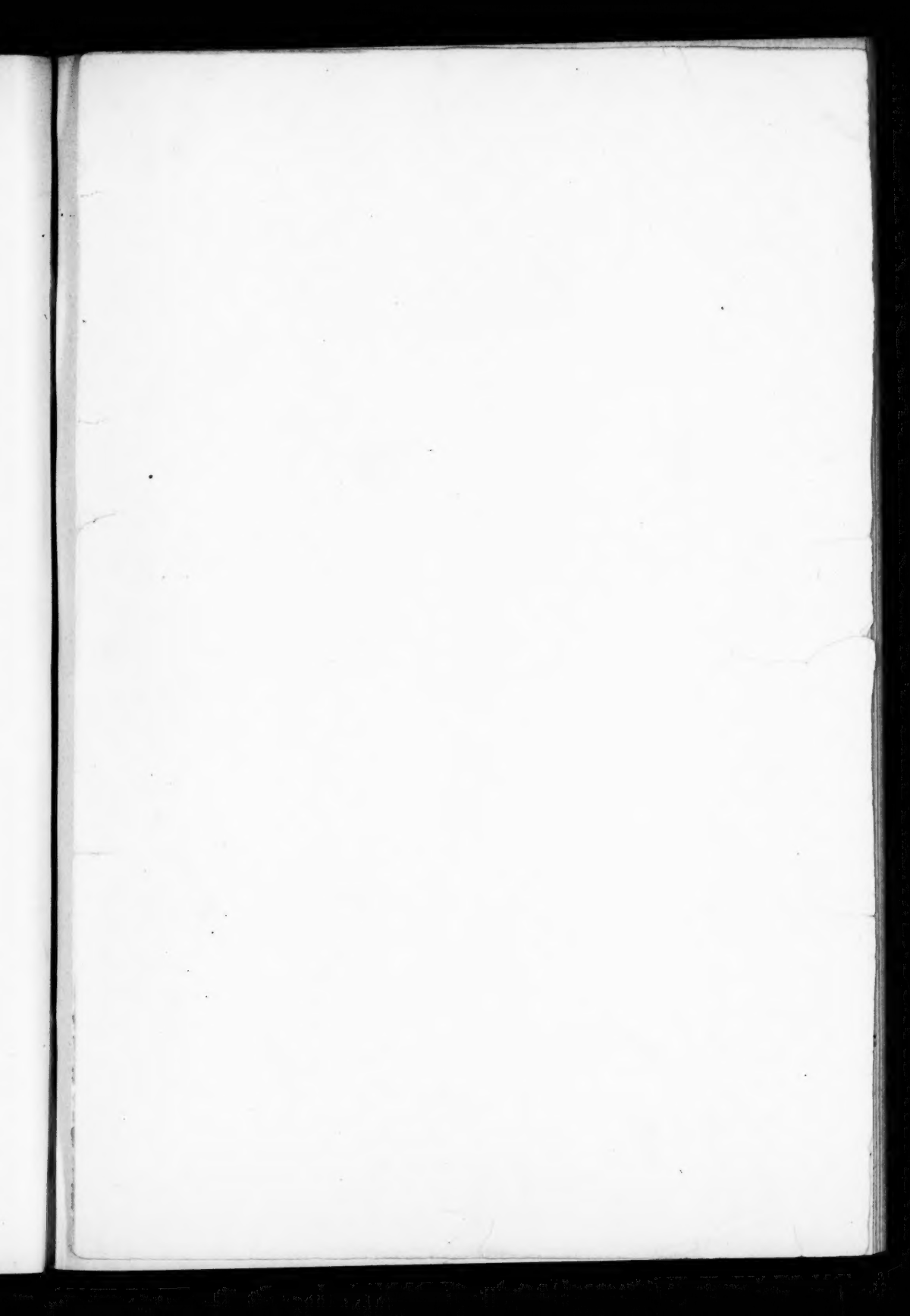
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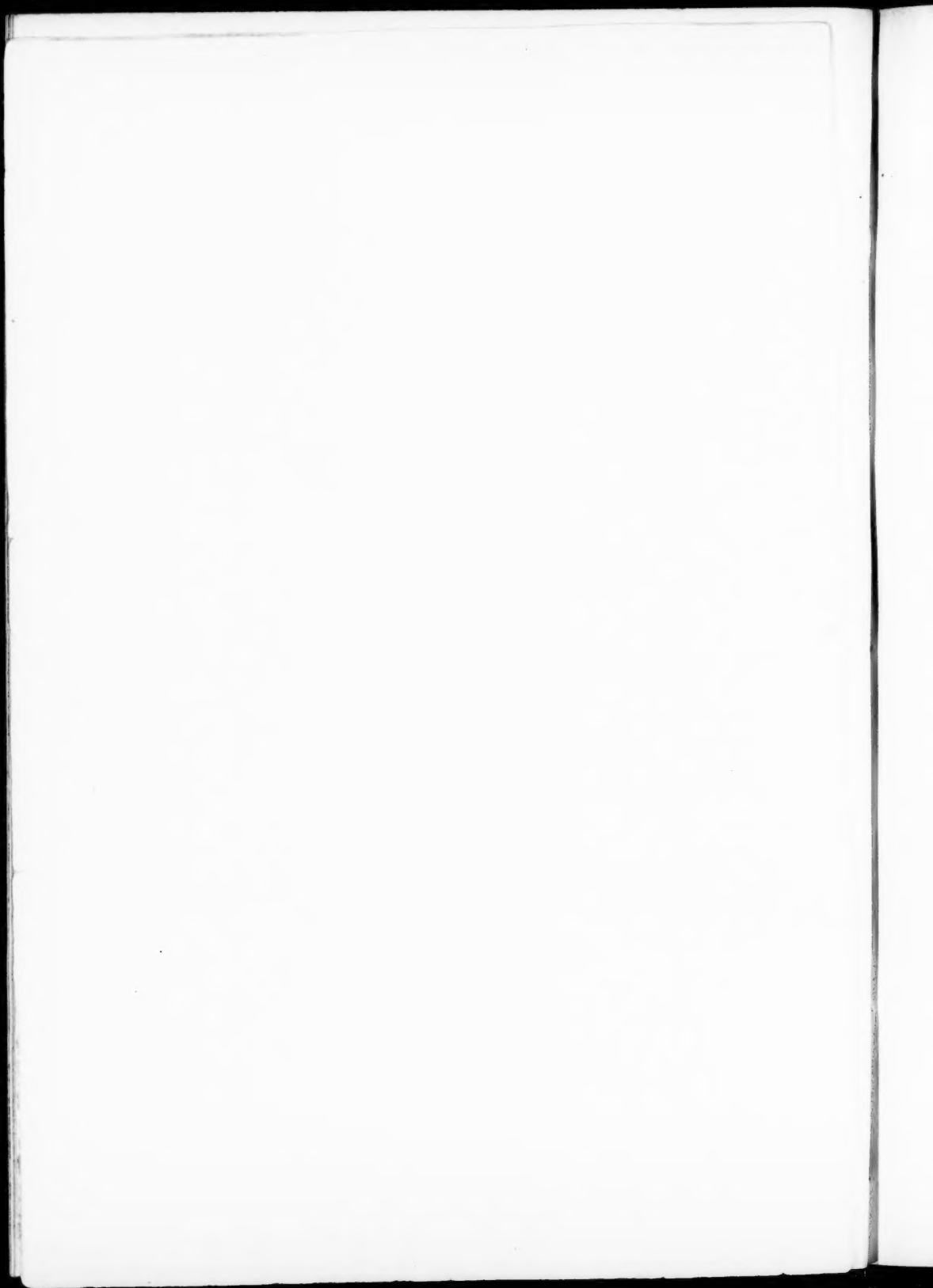
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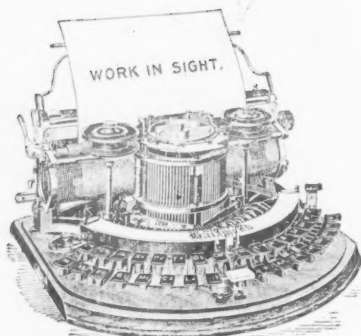
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